

## First boys emerge in Thai cave rescue

Members of youth soccer team began diving out early Sunday

By TASSANEE VEJONGSA  
AND KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA  
*Associated Press*

MAE SAI, Thailand — Rescuers in northern Thailand on Sunday extracted four members of a youth soccer team from the cave where they had been trapped for more than two weeks, part of an ongoing operation to rescue the 12 boys and their coach. The head of the operation said it was going “better than expected.”

The operation to rescue the boys, ages 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old coach by having them dive out of the flooded cave began Sunday morning, with expert divers entering the sprawling complex for the complicated, dangerous mission.

**‘The operation went much better than expected.’**

**Narongsak Osatanakorn**  
Chiang Rai acting governor

Shortly before 8 p.m., Thai navy SEALs, who are taking part in the rescue operation, reported on their official Facebook page that four had been rescued.

Chiang Rai acting Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn, who is heading the operation, said the four boys had been taken to a hospital.

**SEE RESCUE ON PAGE 14**



SANKHAI LALIT/AP

One of two ambulances began Sunday to rescue trapped youth soccer players and their coach.



## Joint success

Green Berets and Afghan commandos capture Islamic State stronghold **Page 6**

Pfc. Nicholas Millan of 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, peers through a scope while manning Observation Post Krakken, a checkpoint overlooking a key valley in Deh Bala district in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, on July 7.

J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

### PACIFIC

Secretary of State Pompeo sticking with upbeat view of first North Korea visit

**Page 2**

### PACIFIC

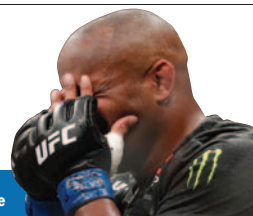
RIMPAC exercise's sea drill phase set to get underway

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### FACES

The B-52s celebrate 40 wild years since release of first single ‘Rock Lobster’

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**Cormier KO's Miocic for heavyweight title » MMA, Back page**

# PACIFIC

## Pompeo positive despite N. Korea's comments on visit

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO, Japan — Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is sticking with a positive assessment of his talks in Pyongyang despite North Korea calling American denuclearization requests “gangster-like.”

Pompeo initially described discussions with senior communist official Kim Yong Chol in the North's capital Friday and Saturday as “productive.”

He stuck with the upbeat assessment after arriving in Tokyo for his first visit as Secretary of State Sunday despite complaints by the North that the U.S. was not acting in the spirit of the June 12 summit in Singapore between President Donald Trump and leader Kim Jong Un.

“The U.S. side came up only with its unilateral and gangster-like demand for denuclearization,” a North Korean foreign ministry spokesman said in a statement to the official KCNA news agency Saturday.

However, Pompeo told reporters in Tokyo that his talks with Kim were “good faith, productive conversation[s].”

The “requests” asked of North Korea were in line with the “unanimous decision by the [United Nations] Security Council on what needs to be achieved,”

he said.

“If the requests were gangster-like, then the whole world is a gangster,” Pompeo said, brushing off the North's statement as a “stray comment” to the media.

North Korea “did not push back” regarding the broad nature of calls for denuclearization and reaffirmed a commitment to destroy its missile-engine test site, he said.

“I am counting on Chairman Kim to be determined to follow through on the commitments,” said Pompeo, who has held three rounds of talks in Pyongyang.

Pompeo and Kim discussed timelines for denuclearization and further talks, he said.

The two sides also plan to meet on Thursday to discuss the North's summit promise to return remains of Americans soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War.

South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha told reporters in Tokyo that Pompeo's meeting was a “first step” toward implementing denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The South Korea-U.S. alliance is “firm and strong,” she said, adding that recent decisions to suspend annual South Korea-U.S. war games were “taken jointly.”

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis has said that the drills were halted to “create space for our dip-



CAITLIN DOORNBOS/Stars and Stripes

**U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Kono and South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha listen to a reporter's question Sunday in Tokyo.**

lomats to negotiate strongly and increase the prospect for a peaceful solution on the peninsula.”

Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Kono said his country wants “to initiate a new start” to its relations with North Korea.

“Japan is determined to continue playing a major role in realizing peace and stability throughout Northeast Asia in close coordination with the U.S. and [South Korea],” Kono said.

Japan is seeking the return of 12 citizens abducted by North Korea, and Pompeo said he has mentioned the issue each time he has met with North Korean leaders.

At his next meeting with the North Koreans, Pompeo said, he would discuss the possible return of servicemembers who were prisoners of war or missing in action in North Korea.

Doornbos, caitlin@stripes.com  
@CaitlinDoornbos

## Vietnam cited as example

Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — Underpinned by a blistering rebuke of his efforts to forge a denuclearization deal with North Korea, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday appealed for North Korea's leadership to follow Vietnam's path in overcoming past hostilities with the United States.

Pompeo called on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to replicate Vietnam's “miracle” of economic growth by improving ties with the U.S., vowing that America keeps its promises with former foes.

Speaking to members of the U.S.-Vietnamese business

community in Hanoi, Pompeo said Vietnam's experience since the normalization of relations with the U.S. in 1995 should be proof for North Korea that prosperity and partnership with the U.S. is possible after decades of conflict and mistrust. “We know it is a real possibility because we see how Vietnam has traveled this remarkable path,” Pompeo said.

“The fact that we are cooperating — and not fighting — is proof that when a country decides to create a brighter future for itself alongside the United States, we follow through on American promises,” he said.

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+49 (0) 631-3615-9013

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## PACIFIC

# Mariners prepare for RIMPAC sea drills

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM** — French Navy Lt. Gaetan Lamour faces plenty of challenges as the sole doctor aboard a French frigate — but coping with isolation at sea isn't something he learned about in medical school.

"You can feel really alone because the Pacific Ocean is so vast," said Lamour, a crewmember on the *Prairial*, one of the 41 vessels visiting Hawaii for the biennial Rim of the Pacific exercise.

"You really feel on your own during all those weeks," he said. "Finally, when you arrive at RIMPAC you see all the ships, the sailors, all the medical providers, and it really feels great. Like a family, we do the same jobs."

As RIMPAC winds up its first week, many of the 25,000 personnel who have gathered in Hawaii and Southern California spent an initial "ashore" phase getting to know their international counterparts as much as they did sharing information, or training for upcoming amphibious and at-sea drills.

"I think for all of RIMPAC, there is a social and networking aspect to the exercise — and that's not by accident," said Lt. Cmdr. Johnathan MacDonald with the Royal Canadian Navy, who is serving as a medical planner for the exercise. "It really allows us during the first week, when we get on ground, to meet one another — the partners we will be working with."

"This is my first RIMPAC, and it's been an extraordinary experience so far," he added. "I've never personally experienced any such military opportunity where there are so many different nations involved."

MacDonald coordinated exchanges of medical personnel between three ships July 2 and July 3, including aboard Australia's HMAS *Adelaide*, where they demonstrated the challenges of moving an injured patient through the ship's narrow passages, ladders and stairs.

"It's potentially small challenges that can grow into bigger ones when a patient is injured on one end of the ship and needs to be moved to the surgical area," he explained.

The French Navy's Lamour was one of 12 medical specialists to present topics at a two-day symposium ending Friday — which included presenters from the Philippines, New Zealand, Australia, Chile, Japan, United States, Singapore, South Korea, India, Canada and the United Kingdom.

During RIMPAC's ashore phase, ship crews also receive training on sighting and protecting marine mammals.

Meanwhile, troops at Marine Corps Base Hawaii spent the week training with counterparts from partner nations such as Australia, Chile, the Philippines and Japan. The training included small-unit insertions via parachute and rubber raft, urban-clearing operations, and small-arms live fire.

Music has also provided a chance for the international mariners to mingle with each other, as well as with members of the public.

Musicians from the Royal Australian Navy, Royal Canadian Navy, Indonesian Navy and the U.S. Pacific Fleet performed together July 1 at the Defense Department-owned Hale Koa Hotel on Waikiki Beach, while American grunge rockers Stone Temple Pilots performed for an international audience at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on the Fourth of July.

Another opportunity for interaction in the opening days of the exercise came during the inaugural Innovation Fair, which drew 2,000 visitors to Pearl Harbor-Hickam during its two-day run on June 29 and



ZACHARY ORR/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

**A Chilean and U.S. Marine practice clearing an area together during urban operations training as part of Rim of the Pacific exercise at Marine Corps Base Hawaii on June 28.**



NATALIE BYERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

**Sailors assigned to the Indian Navy frigate INS *Salyadri* perform a traditional dance during a reception at Pearl Harbor on July 5 as part of Rim of the Pacific exercise.**

30.

During the fair, exhibitors representing 22 countries shared cutting-edge concepts and emerging technologies, focusing on innovations in sonar, power and fuel, underwater drones, and virtual reality.

"This Innovation Fair provided an ideal



THOMAS MILLER/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

**A U.S. Marine with the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion jumps from a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter July 2 during amphibious drills.**

platform for our international participants to experience face-to-face interactions with partners-at-sea," said Cmdr. Brett Elko, who is assigned to the 3rd Fleet, in a Navy statement.

Despite the opportunities for global partnership and cross-cultural socialization,

the influx of thousands of mariners to Oahu during RIMPAC does bring some inconvenience for Honolulu residents.

Flyovers by helicopters and jets are routine throughout the exercise, and increased traffic near Pearl Harbor often causes delays for drivers.

The Navy also notified residents that electromagnetic activity generated by the presence of so many ships can affect remotely controlled garage-door openers, by either making them open spontaneously or preventing remotes from working temporarily.

**"I've never personally experienced any such military opportunity where there are so many different nations involved."**

**Lt. Cmdr. Johnathan MacDonald**  
Royal Canadian Navy

olson.wyatt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @WyattOlson

## MILITARY

# Marines deny using dating app as recruiting tool

By JAMES BOLINGER  
Stars and Stripes

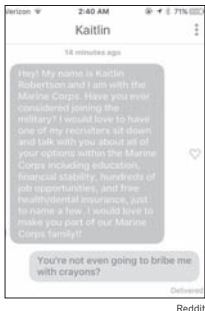
The Marine Corps has reminded recruiters not to use online matchmaking services to entice youngsters to join up after evidence that someone has been promoting military service on the popular Bumble dating app.

A screenshot posted on Reddit on Monday appears to show a conversation on Bumble between a young man and a woman who tells him:

"Hey! My name is Kaitlin Robertson and I am with the Marine Corps. I would love to have one of my recruiters sit down and talk with you about your options within the Marine Corps including education, financial stability, hundreds of job opportunities, and free health/dental insurance, just to name a few. I would love to make you part of our Marine Corps family!"

The young man's quick response, "You're not even going to bribe me with crayons?" shows he might well be military material but, according to officials, using dating apps to recruit Marines is against the rules.

"We don't condone use of dating apps for business purposes and that Bumble post was not written by a recruiter," Marine Corps Recruiting Command spokesman Gunnery Sgt. Justin Kronenberg said in an email Thursday.



Screenshot of a Bumble conversation.

The Marines have searched their personnel records and can't find any Marine named Kaitlin Robertson, Kronenberg told the Washington Times newspaper for a July 3 article.

"Command-wide guidance was reemphasized to ensure recruiters are up to date with online conduct expectations," he said in the article, emphasizing that recruiters are not to form short- or long-term relationships with dating apps.

[bolinger.james@stripes.com](mailto:bolinger.james@stripes.com)  
Twitter: @bolinger2004

## US Marine charged with assaults at Australian base

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A U.S. Marine on exercise in eastern Australia was arrested Tuesday and charged with multiple assaults after an incident at an Australian army base.

The 20-year-old, whose name hasn't been released, is accused of dragging a 60-year-old female Australian Defence Force employee out of her car as she sat in the Gallipoli Barracks' parking lot and physically assaulting her at about 3:15 p.m., the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

The Marine also is accused of a subsequent assault on an off-duty Queensland Police officer who attempted to intervene with military police.

The woman suffered "serious" but non-life-threatening injuries and was taken to a local hospital, Brisbane's The Courier-Mail newspaper and a broadcaster reported. She was treated and released.

Police told the newspaper that the Marine and the woman did not know each other and it is unknown what sparked the attack. Australia's Defence Department is providing support to the woman.

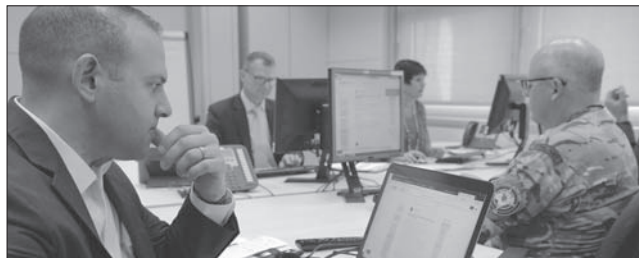
The Marine — who is with the Marine Rotational Force-Darwin — was charged with the serious assault of a person older than 60, assaulting a police officer and willfully damaging the woman's car, the outlets reported. He is due in Brisbane Magistrates Court on July 18.

MRF-Darwin officials acknowledged the arrest Friday but said it was "inappropriate" to provide further details due to the ongoing judicial process.

"The Marine Corps takes this incident very seriously and is working closely with local officials," MRF-Darwin spokesman 1st Lt. Jose Uriarte wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes.

The Gallipoli Barracks are located in Enoggera, which is in northwestern Brisbane.

[burke.matt@stripes.com](mailto:burke.matt@stripes.com)



Courtesy of NATO

British Cmdr. Bill Laust, right, works with staff at NATO's southern hub at Allied Joint Force Command Naples.

## NATO hub nears full ability to assess Africa, Mideast threats

By SCOTT WYLAND  
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Famine and drought breeding terrorism. Human traffickers exploiting mass migration. Wars and civil strife caused by corrupt governments.

NATO's information hub in Naples, which becomes fully operational next week, analyzes such problems in parts of Africa and the Mideast, and proposes policies and strategies to help prevent them from threatening Europe's southern borders.

The hub opened last year at Allied Joint Force Command Naples, partly in response to the Pentagon's pushing NATO to better protect Europe against terrorism. It is expected to be at "full capability" as President Donald Trump and other heads of state meet at a NATO summit on Wednesday in Brussels, allied officials said.

It is part of NATO's post-Cold War evolution to a security force that looks at how it can prevent threats and not just defend against them.

"This is the aim — we want to anticipate the crisis to avoid it,"

said Italian Brig. Gen. Roberto Angius, the hub's director.

The hub employs 72 people. Fully staffed, it will have 35 employees transferred from the joint force command and 45 new hires from two dozen countries, including Albania, Canada, Bulgaria, Germany, France, Spain, Turkey, Britain, Poland, Croatia and the U.S.

The hub blends military and civilian staffers and draws on the expertise of nongovernmental agencies, academics and faith-based groups in the affected countries, said Italian Lt. Gen. Luciano Portolano, JFC Naples chief of staff.

Hub analysts might look at how Libya's political unrest spurs terrorism or at how Lake Chad's depleted resources have caused a mass exodus that adds to the flow of migrants from Africa to Europe.

The staff then would draft a report with recommendations for NATO, the United Nations and other international bodies.

"We can't fix that problem ... but we can publish our analysis of it," said Lt. Cmdr. Mike Nunziato, a U.S. Navy analyst at the hub.

Civilian employees help create a bridge between NATO and local communities that distrust the military, said Marta Przenioslo, a hub advisor.

"It's very important on the ground," Przenioslo said. "Some of the people living there see NATO only as a military organization."

The hub is focused on the North Atlantic Treaty's Article 2, which encourages stability and peace through cooperation, she said, adding that NATO's longtime emphasis was on Article 5, which called for a strong response to attacks or escalating threats.

Forming a broad, diverse information network in northern Africa and the Middle East is mutually beneficial, said British navy Cmdr. Alex Bush. Helping mitigate political instability and economic hardship means terrorist groups are less likely to recruit members, reducing threats to Europe's south, Bush said.

"We're adapting," Nunziato said. "We can't just take what was working against Russia for 70 years and shift to the south. We'll fail. The threat is different."

[wyland.scott@stripes.com](mailto:wyland.scott@stripes.com)  
Twitter: @wylandstripes

## Jurney takes reins of 3rd Marine Division

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Brig. Gen. William Jurney took command of the 3rd Marine Division during a ceremony Friday at Camp Courtney, Okinawa.

The former enlisted infantryman-turned-officer with combat experience and a Bronze Star arrives at America's only forward-deployed Marine division — affectionately referred to as "Caltrap Nation" — after a stint leading Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region.

He replaces Maj. Gen. Craig Timberlake, who is retiring after 41 years in uniform.

"I am new to the team and I am

new to the Okinawa, but I am no stranger to the Division mission," Jurney said, according to a Marine Corps statement.

Jurney will oversee an aviation-supported division split between Hawaii and Okinawa — tasked, primarily, with amphibious assault. His forces include rotational units forward deployed through the Unit Deployment Program.

A college graduate, Jurney enlisted in 1987 as an infantryman and became an officer a year later under the Enlisted Commissioning Program.

He deployed in support of operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, conducted peacekeeping operations in Kosovo, and de-

ployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also served as executive officer of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan in 2013.

Timberlake, a Kentucky native and combat veteran, departs Okinawa after about a year and a half on the job. He took over for Maj. Gen. Richard Simcock II in January 2017 at a time of heightened geopolitical tension in the region.

"It is the Marines, sailors, soldiers and family members of 3rd Marine Division that make it great," Timberlake said, according to the statement. "There is no prouder moment within my 41 years of service than when I joined Caltrap Nation."

[burke.matt@stripes.com](mailto:burke.matt@stripes.com)



## PACIFIC

# Flooding's toll climbs in Japan

Associated Press

HIROSHIMA, Japan — Searches continued Sunday night for victims of heavy rainfall that hammered southern Japan for the third straight day, as the government put the death toll at 48, with 28 others presumed dead.

Japanese government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said the whereabouts of 92 other people were unknown, mostly in the southern area of Hiroshima prefecture. More than 100 reports of possible casualties had been received, including some involving cars being swept away, he said. Some 40 helicopters were out on rescue missions.

"Rescue efforts are a battle with time," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters. "The rescue teams are doing their utmost."

The Japan Meteorological Agency said three hours of rainfall in one area in Kochi prefecture reached an accumulated 10.4 inches, the highest since such records started in 1976.

The assessment of casualties has been difficult because of the widespread area affected by the rainfall, flooding and landslides. Authorities warned that landslides could strike even after rain subsides as the calamity shaped up to be potentially the worst in decades.

In Hiroshima prefecture, water streamed through a residential area, strewn with fallen telephone poles, uprooted trees and mud. Some homes were smashed.

A woman who was reported as missing after getting trapped in her car was found but was pronounced dead, Kyodo news service reported.

In another area in Hiroshima, 12 people went missing when a residential area got sucked into a landslide, and one body was later found.



SHOHEI MIYANO/Kyodo News via AP

A resident is rescued in a flooded area Saturday in Kurashiki, Okayama prefecture, Japan.

Kochi prefecture, on Shikoku, issued landslide warnings almost over the entire island. Public broadcaster NHK TV showed overturned cars on roads covered with mud.

A convenience store worker, who had fled to a nearby rooftop, said water had reached as high as his head.

The Japanese government set up an emergency office, designed for crises such as major earthquakes. Military paddle boats were also being used to take people to dry land.

Okayama prefecture said in a statement that four people had died, eight others were missing and 11 were injured, at least one of them seriously. Seven homes were destroyed, dozens more were damaged, while more than 570 were flooded.

Kyodo reported several deaths in a landslide in Hiroshima and more bodies were retrieved from collapsed housing in the ancient capital of Kyoto, both areas where the rainfall was heavy in the past few days.

Throughout the hard-hit areas,



HARUKA NUGA/AP

Debris fills a small village following heavy rains Sunday in Kuchita-Minami, Asakita-ku, Hiroshima, Japan.

rivers swelled and parked cars sat in pools of water. Japan has sent troops, firefighters, police

and other disaster relief. People have also taken to social media to plead for help.

## Retired admiral sports new look for new role as diplomat

By KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Retired Adm. Harry Harris has a new look to go with his new role as U.S. ambassador to South Korea.

Harris, who was in charge of U.S. forces in the Pacific before retiring from the Navy, decided it was time for a change after being clean-shaven for most of his military career.

"I had a mustache when I was a junior officer," he said Saturday after arriving in Seoul to take up his post. "I thought that it would be a nice break from wearing the uniform as a flag officer through now wearing the uniform of a diplomat, or trying to fit in one."

"So, it's a little bit different, but I think it is a good break," he added.

Harris landed in Seoul at about the same time that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo ended a two-day visit to North Korea aimed at following through on the June 12 summit between President Donald Trump and leader Kim Jong Un.

Harris kept his remarks focused on the importance of the longstanding U.S.-South Korean alliance.



Harris

"Our presidents have been in regular contact as we work together to persuade North Korea to chart a new course," he told reporters during a brief press conference at Incheon International Airport.

He declined to comment on ongoing talks between the two countries over sharing the costs of the 28,500 U.S. troops based on the divided peninsula.

"I don't want to get ahead of the process and I don't want to discuss the opening stances if you will in public," he said, standing next to his wife, Bruni Bradley.

South Korean media have reported that Seoul has rejected a demand by Washington to help pay for the deployment of strate-

gic assets such as bombers and aircraft carriers to the region.

Harris led the U.S. Pacific Command, now known as the Indo-Pacific Command, from 2015 until May, when he ended his 40-year Navy career.

He had been due to become the U.S. ambassador to Australia but was instead nominated by President Trump to the post in Seoul on May 23. He was confirmed by the Senate last week.

Harris is filling a position that had been vacant since the previous ambassador, Mark Lippert, left after Trump took office in January 2017.

gamel.kim@stripes.com  
Twitter: @kimgame

## 2 US ships sail through sensitive area

Stars and Stripes

A pair of U.S. warships sailed through the Taiwan Strait over the weekend, according to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense.

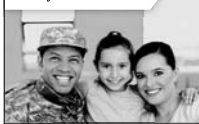
The ministry, in a statement Saturday, identified the ships entering the 110-mile strait between mainland China and Taiwan as the Yokosuka, Japan-based destroyers USS Mustin and USS Benford.

"Two U.S. Navy ships conducted a routine transit through the international waters of the Taiwan Strait on July 7-8," U.S. Pacific Fleet spokesman Capt. Charlie Brown told USNI News Saturday. "U.S. Navy ships transit between the South China Sea and East China Sea via the Taiwan Strait and have done so for many years."

The transit, which comes as the U.S. and China spar over trade and access to international waters, is the first since another American destroyer, the USS John S. McCain, entered the strait last July.

The last time a U.S. aircraft carrier sailed through the Taiwan Strait was when the USS Kitty Hawk transited it in 2007.

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## WAR ON TERRORISM

# Special ops troops take stronghold of ISIS in Afghanistan

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

U.S. and Afghan special operations troops in one of their largest joint operations captured a stronghold that Islamic State fighters claimed as their local capital, military officials said Saturday.

No American or Afghan troops were killed in the offensive, which the U.S. military said killed 167 fighters from ISIS — also known as Daesh — and involved a complex, multipronged attack on Gurgoray, a town purported to be the group's capital in Deh Bala district in Nangarhar province.

"This area, two months ago, was controlled by Daesh," Brig. Gen. John W. Brennan Jr., commander of NATO forces in eastern Afghanistan, said at a special operations outpost in Deh Bala. "We pushed them into the mountains, so they cannot harm the people here."

The U.S. and Afghan offensive involved five Special Forces teams and three Afghan commando companies. In total, 600 members of the U.S. Army Special Forces, also known as Green Berets, participated in the mission, which began in April and continued into June, a U.S. military official said.

Checkpoints manned by Green Berets, Afghan commandos and police now rise high above the valleys of Deh Bala, while American aircraft continue to blast the Gurgoray Valley to stifle movements there by remnants of ISIS.

Nangarhar province is one of the few places Americans continue to fight alongside Afghan forces, and it also has been the deadliest spot for U.S. servicemembers, with a third of American combat deaths last year occurring there.

Sgt. 1st Class Mihail Golin, a Green Beret, died during a foot patrol in Nangarhar in January and was the first U.S. combat

death of 2018 in Afghanistan. Another U.S. servicemember died in an insider attack Saturday. Two other Americans were wounded.

The fingerlike mountain ridges and wheat-filled valleys of Deh Bala district in Nangarhar have long provided shelter to insurgents — the Taliban, al-Qaida and now ISIS.

The district's center lies 21 miles south of Jalalabad, the provincial capital, where ISIS claimed recent deadly suicide attacks, and 11 miles west of Aachin, where the U.S. military in April 2017 dropped the largest bomb in its arsenal, "the mother of all bombs," onto an ISIS cave network.

Due to its location on the border with Pakistan, Deh Bala served as a key supply route for ISIS.

"ISIS was using this site as a site to prepare and stage high-profile attacks," said Lt. Col. Joshua Thiel, commander of 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group.

Examples of attacks staged in the region include a bombing that killed 12 at a key religious gathering in June and another bombing that killed eight at a cricket match last year, Thiel said.

When ISIS first arrived in the area, reportedly about 2014, the militant group used its money reserves to convince locals to join them. U.S. and Afghan officials said the group then began taxing and extorting locals, killing those who did not comply and selling off the region's trees and minerals.

The militant group beheaded a police officer following an attack two months ago, said Ghulam Sakhi, commander of the 200 Afghan Local Police in the district.

"In the beginning, ISIS seemed really nice," Sakhi said through a translator. "All the people liked them. They were good with the people, but then by the time they were beheading people, people

Saturday, Syrian troops hoisted national flags at the border crossing point three years after losing it to rebels.

Syria's government offensive to retake the province of Daraa from insurgents, which began on June 19, has displaced some 330,000 people, many of them heading to the border with Jordan, which refused to allow refugees to cross. The fighting in the border area stopped on Friday under a Russian-mediated surrender deal.

Anders Pedersen, the top U.N. humanitarian coordinator in Jordan, told reporters Sunday that



J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

**A member of the Afghan Local Police watches the aftermath of strikes by U.S. F-16 fighters in a key valley in Deh Bala district in Nangarhar province July 7.**

realized they were not good people."

A team of Green Berets and Afghan commandos arrived in Deh Bala and dug into a position on a ridge overlooking the Gurgoray Valley on April 28, Thiel said.

This position, Observation Post Krakken, was east of Gurgoray and fired down into the valley as other U.S. and Afghan forces built up a larger base, Camp Blackbeard, near the Deh Bala district center.

"They put the capital under fire for about 30 days as they built up this space," Thiel said while at Camp Blackbeard.

Machine gun and mortar fire rose up from Gurgoray and the valley below OP Krakken, and U.S. airstrikes pounded the valley as ISIS fighters dug in. Afghan soldiers fasted during the day and ate only at night during the offensive, which overlapped with the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, Thiel said.

Then helicopters filled with Green Berets and Afghan commandos landed on ridgelines to the northwest of Gurgoray on May 30 and built outposts overlooking Gurgoray. That maneuver placed ISIS fighters under attack from both west and east, Thiel said.

ISIS fighters had built their defense to guard against an attack from the east, through the val-

ley leading from OP Krakken to Gurgoray, Thiel said. Militants emerged from their positions and attacked the Green Berets and Afghan commandos to their west. Heavy airstrikes called in by Afghan commandos killed more than 100 ISIS fighters.

These Afghan commandos to the west of Gurgoray pushed on the capital. Meanwhile, two companies of commandos and Green Berets attacked from the east and cleared the valley, Thiel said.

The pincer movement trapped ISIS fighters and led to the capture of the city by June 9, Thiel said.

U.S. troops found ISIS fighters from 10 different nationalities in Gurgoray, Thiel said. Troops also found booby traps and the mutilated bodies of two beheaded women, U.S. and Afghan official said.

ISIS has lost about half of its territory in recent months, Thiel said. The military said ISIS has been driven out from Kot and Aachin provinces as well and that their new stronghold has moved to Tora Bora.

Green Berets and Afghan commandos continue to man OP Krakken, and Thiel said a U.S. medical team remains in the area to treat injuries from mines, many of which were left in the valley by ISIS. Afghan security forces are

patrolling the area and installing checkpoints.

Many families — estimated at up to 400 — fled the area due to ISIS, said Rezwannullah Basharmal, governor of Deh Bala district. A few families have returned to plant wheat.

"Once all the checkpoints are back, they'll come back," Basharmal said.

Residents of the area fear that once the elite troops withdraw from the region, the regular security forces there will allow the area to fall back into enemy hands.

"We know that our security forces have always showed bravery to capture areas from Daesh or Taliban, but after a while, these areas go back in their hands again," Israrullah Murad, a member of Nangarhar's provincial council, said.

The district's Afghan Local Police commander, Sakhi, said the operations against ISIS in the region now means locals — including the Taliban — can return.

"All the people feel very happy about the elimination of ISIS," Sakhi said through an interpreter. "As soon as ISIS is finished, the Taliban will come back. They were scared of ISIS."

Zubair Babakarhail contributed to this report.  
lawrence.jp@stripes.com  
Twitter: @jplawrence3

## Thousands who fled recent fighting in Syria return home

By BASSEM MROUE  
AND FARES AKRAH  
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Most Syrians displaced by recent fighting stranded at the border with Jordan in the country's south have returned to their homes, a U.N. official and a group that closely monitors the Syrian war said Sunday.

The return to areas now controlled by the government came two days after Syrian troops regained control of the Naseeb border crossing with Jordan, along with a long stretch of the border between the two countries. On

just 150 to 200 Syrians remained near a key crossing point into Jordan, adding that as "far as we understand, they are almost exclusively men."

But the situation "remains very difficult and it's of a huge concern to us," Pedersen told reporters, repeating calls for a cessation of hostilities to allow humanitarian operations and eventually reaching a political settlement to the Syrian crisis.

Syrian opposition activists reported intense shelling and airstrikes on the rebel-held village of Um al-Mayadeen, a few miles north of the Naseeb border cross-

ing. Hours later, state news agency SANA said Syrians captured Um al-Mayadeen after a battle with opposition fighters.

Although the main rebel groups in the eastern parts of Daraa province have agreed to hand over their weapons as part of the deal, some have vowed to continue fighting, mostly in western parts of Daraa and the nearby Quneitra region on the front with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Pedersen said the U.N. organizations need to respond to the populations in southwest Syria, especially the displaced return-

ing home from the Jordanian border and from near the Golan Heights, where they have fled airstrikes and shelling in recent weeks.

"Our biggest concern right now and our biggest ask is to allow us to move in ... to reach the populations that we know are in greatest need," Andersen said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said some 60,000 Syrians have returned to their homes, while thousands of others fled to another area, fearing detention by government forces or being drafted into the military.

## NATION

# White House takes aim at health care law

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is freezing payments under an Affordable Care Act program that protects insurers with sicker patients from financial losses, a move expected to add to premium increases next year.

At stake are billions of dollars in payments to insurers with sicker customers. The latest administration action could disrupt the health care law that has withstood President Donald Trump's efforts to completely repeal it.

In a weekend announcement, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said the administration is acting because of conflicting court rulings in lawsuits filed by some smaller insurers who question whether they are being treated fairly under the program.

The so-called "risk adjustment" program takes payments from insurers with healthier customers and redistributes that money to companies with sicker enrollees.

Payments for 2017 are \$10.4 billion. No taxpayer subsidies are involved.

The idea behind the program is to remove the financial incentive for insurers to "cherry pick" healthier customers. The government uses a similar approach with Medicare private insurance plans and the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Major insurer groups said Saturday the administration's action interferes with a program that's working well.

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, whose members are a mainstay of Affordable Care Act coverage, said it was "extremely disappointed" with the administration's action.

The Trump administration's move "will significantly increase 2019 premiums for millions of individuals and small business owners and could result in far fewer health plan choices," association president Scott Serota said in a statement. "It will undermine Americans' access to affordable coverage, particularly those who need medical care the most."

Serota noted that the payments are required by law and said he believes the administration has the legal authority to continue making them despite the court cases. He warned of "turmoil" as insurers finalize their rates for 2019.

America's Health Insurance Plans, the main health insurance industry trade group, said in a statement that it is "very discouraged" by the Trump administration's decision to freeze payments.

"Costs for taxpayers will rise as the federal government spends more on premium subsidies," the group said.

Rumors that the Trump administration would freeze payments were circulating late last week. But the Saturday announcement via email was unusual for such a major step.

The administration argued in its announcement that its hands were tied by conflicting court rulings in New Mexico and Massachusetts.

Medicare and Medicaid Administrator Seema Verma said

the Trump administration was disappointed by a New Mexico court ruling that questioned the workings of the risk program for insurers.

The administration "has asked the court to reconsider its ruling, and hopes for a prompt resolution that allows (the government) to prevent more adverse impacts on Americans who receive their insurance in the individual and small group markets," she said.

More than 10 million people buy individual health insurance plans through HealthCare.gov and state insurance marketplaces. The vast majority of those customers receives taxpayer subsidies under the Obama-era health care law and would be shielded from premium increases next year.

The brunt of higher prices would fall on solid middle-class consumers who are not eligible for the income-based subsidies. Many of those are self-employed people and small-business owners, generally seen as a Republican constituency.

The latest "Obamacare" flare-up does not affect most people

with employer coverage.

More than 20 million people have coverage through former President Barack Obama's law. Nearly half get subsidized private coverage that would be affected by Saturday's Trump administration announcement. The other half are covered by expanded Medicaid.

Trump came into office promising a swift repeal of "Obamacare," which he said he'd replace with a much better health care plan. But the White House never produced a proposal, and legislation from congressional Republicans would have left millions uninsured while undermining protections for people with pre-existing health problems.

The GOP repeal drive collapsed last summer after Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., cast a crucial "no" vote, with a thumbs-down gesture that's become a target of Trump criticism at campaign-style rallies.

## Appalachian region looks to Asia to revive economic hopes

By MARK GILLISPEE  
Associated Press

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, Ohio — A slice of Appalachia along the Ohio River still struggling decades after losing manufacturing jobs in the steel, aluminum and glass industries to overseas competition is looking to Asia to revive the region's fortunes with a more pliable product — plastic.

A Thai chemical company and, more recently, its new South Korean partner, are taking halting steps toward building a multibillion-dollar petrochemical plant in eastern Ohio that would "crack" molecules of ethane, a byproduct of natural gas drilling, into the raw material used to produce plastic products.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich has said the project, which would create thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of permanent positions, would be a "game changer." Kasich said in an interview with The Associated Press that the cracker plant could draw in other companies much like Honda did after opening its Marysville assembly plant in 1982.

"These hardscrabble areas would clearly be helped," Kasich said. "I'm not saying if this comes, everyone's problems will be solved. But these are great developments."

Thailand's PTT Global Chemical has been working on plans to build a cracker plant for several years, injecting optimism in an area of eastern Ohio and northern West Virginia where the effect of a shale gas boom on the local economy has been helpful but limited.

But PTT also has engendered skepticism after failing to keep promises about when it would an-



PHOTOS BY PAUL VERNON/AP

Larry Merry, executive director of the Belmont County Port Authority, poses outside the proposed site of an ethane cracker plant in Belmont County, Ohio.

nounce its intentions. At a news conference in March, the PTT-Daelim partnership said it would decide by year's end.

Leu Krups, 80, a resident of Shadyside, a village a few miles from the proposed site in an area of Belmont County called Dilles Bottom, said PTT lost credibility when it reneged on a promise last year to announce a decision by the end of 2017.

"I don't know why an Asian company would come in and build that," he said.

Steve Beltrondo, 74, a retired power plant worker from Shadyside, said of the delays, "We've been listening to this for three years."

Dan Williamson, a spokesman for PTT and Daelim, said last week that he understands the frustration.

"This is a big deal for that community," Williamson said. "And

they want to know if this is going to happen or not. We completely understand that."

Williamson said the final decision rests solely on the economic feasibility of the project. The company, he said, has spent more than \$100 million on land acquisition and planning to this point.

Larry Merry, executive director of the Belmont County Port Authority, has been working closely with PTT on the project and said there are plenty of reasons for optimism.

"It's a big decision they're making, and one that I understand is going to take time to make sure they're making a wise decision," Merry said.

The Belmont County site holds logistical advantages over the U.S. petrochemical hub along the Gulf Coast in Louisiana and Texas, Merry said. He cited Belmont County's ready supply of ethane

from an expanding gas-and-oil industry and that the plant would be located within 500 miles of 60 percent of the country's plastic producers, along with the population centers where they are sold.

Hurricanes, which disrupted the Gulf Coast petrochemical industry during Harvey last summer and released tons of toxins into the environment, obviously aren't a concern in eastern Ohio, Merry said.

"We hardly have tornadoes," he said.

The Dilles Bottom plant, if built, would become the second petrochemical complex in the region. Royal Dutch Shell once considered building there, but instead chose a site about 80 miles north along the Ohio River near Monaca, Pa. Construction of the \$6 billion plant began late last year. It could be operational sometime in 2020.



A natural gas drill rig rises above the trees in Belmont County.

Merry said there are adequate ethane reserves from natural gas drilling in the Utica and Marcellus shale to supply as many as five cracker plants in the region.

While Ohio governmental entities would receive all the plant's direct benefits, such as income and property taxes, the city of Moundsville, W.V., which sits across the river from the cracker plant site, hopes to reap some of the spillover.

Moundsville Mayor Allen Hendershott said his city has taken some preliminary steps to prepare for construction, such as revising zoning laws to help construction of businesses like restaurants, hotels and retail stores.

"Everyone is guardedly optimistic," Hendershott said. "But until we get that final announcement, it's hard to invest money for what you might do."



## NATION

# Anti-violence march halts traffic on freeway in Chicago

By SARA BURNETT  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Thousands of anti-violence demonstrators marched along a Chicago interstate on Saturday, shutting down traffic to draw attention to the gun violence that's claimed hundreds of lives in some of the city's poorest neighborhoods and to pressure public officials to do more to stop it.

Marchers chanted, "Stop the killing," and carried signs reading, "We need jobs," and other messages. Some stopped to scrawl on the road with chalk: "Enough is enough" and "Peace." Toward the front of the march, the Rev. Michael Pfleger — a Roman Catholic priest on the city's South Side who organized the protest — Chicago police Supt. Eddie Johnson, and the Rev. Jesse Jackson linked arms.

"The people won today because the people showed up. They saw this many people out here, black and white and brown and young and old, and saying, 'We're tired of the damn violence in Chicago,'" Pfleger said after completing the roughly 1.5-mile route.

"We want the governor, the mayor, the elected officials and the community all to come together and say, 'We want peace now.'"

The march took place along the northbound lanes of Interstate 94, known as the Dan Ryan Expressway, after a roughly hour-long standoff between police and the protesters. The expressway was fully reopened less than 90 minutes later, after the protest ended.

Illinois State Police, which had

warned earlier in the week that any pedestrian entering the expressway would face arrest, said early Saturday that an agreement had been reached for protesters to march on a portion of the roadway. Officers and vehicles lined up, forming a barrier to keep protesters in two northbound lanes, allowing some traffic to pass in other northbound lanes.

But Pfleger and protesters insisted there was no agreement and that they would shut down the entire northbound roadway, with Pfleger noting the city closes major roads for parades and other occasions. The crowd began creeping into other lanes — a situation Pfleger said had the potential to become dangerous.

Illinois State Police, which has jurisdiction over expressways, announced about 11:30 a.m. that they were shutting down all northbound lanes of the expressway. Protesters then began walking northbound along the route.

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner took to Twitter to call the shutdown "unacceptable," saying there had been parameters set to allow protesters to march while "respecting law and order" but that protesters instead chose "chaos." The Republican also said he was "disappointed" in Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

"I am calling on the Mayor to take swift and decisive action to put an end to this kind of chaos," Rauner wrote.

Emanuel, a Democrat, responded in a tweet: "It was a peaceful protest. Delete your account."

Pfleger said the next step is accomplishing the actual goal — an "aggressive plan" to address the violence. Among the demands



JOHN J. KIM, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/AP

Demonstrators walk north on the inbound Interstate 94 on Saturday in Chicago.

the protesters listed were more resources, jobs and better schools for their communities as well as stronger gun laws.

There's a historical significance to marching along the Dan Ryan Expressway — a roadway some believe was built in the early 1960s to separate white communities and poor, black ones. To the west of the new interstate were Comiskey Park, home of the White Sox, and neighborhoods such as Bridgeport, home to then-Mayor Richard J. Daley and his clan. To the east rose the Robert Taylor Homes, a high-rise public housing complex that became notorious for its violence.

It was the kind of racial and economic segregation that still exists in Chicago today.

Chicago police said the city had 252 homicides and 1,100 shootings in the first six months of this year, a decrease from the same period last year. But those crimes have been concentrated heavily in predominantly black, low-income neighborhoods.

## Pro-gun rallies across US draw low turnout

The Washington Post

CHICAGO — Student-led rallies across the country on Saturday aimed to show support for gun rights, though their effort drew smaller-than-expected crowds in a bid to counter the well-funded and organized youth gun-control lobby that emerged after the massacre in a Florida high school earlier this year.

In Chicago, people rallied in a corner of Millennium Park. In Los Angeles, protesters yelled "gun rights are human rights" as they marched near Pershing Square. In Washington, an American flag billowed against a backdrop of the Capitol as attendees said guns are being used as scapegoats and that society's problems run

deeper than firearms.

Students who say their views have been silenced in recent months as vocal gun-control advocates have been monopolizing attention used the marches as a way to raise awareness of their fears that hasty solutions could lead to an erosion of the Second Amendment.

In Palm Beach, Fla., about 100 people were expected to rally at a park; 13 came, including organizer Ashley Johnson, three speakers and the parents of two of the speakers.

Johnson said she was disappointed in the turnout.

"I don't know why more people didn't show up. I think a lot of conservatives are just afraid to show up for public events," she said through tears.

# Wildfires rage through California amid heat wave

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Firefighters have been able to build containment around several destructive wildfires burning in California.

Officials said Sunday that the 48-square-mile blaze on the California-Oregon border known as the Klamathon fire is now 25 percent contained. It's one of many fires burning around the drought-ridden states in the U.S. West.

The fire killed one woman in her home and destroyed 72 structures, including homes.

Crews have built at least 80 percent containment on a wildfire that destroyed 20 homes in Santa Barbara County and a central San Diego County fire that burned 18 structures.

In heat-stricken Southern California, powerful winds that sent an overnight inferno hopscotching through the Santa Barbara County community of Goleta vanished Saturday morning, allowing firefighters to extinguish smoldering ruins of an estimated 20 structures, including homes.

Authorities announced that mandatory evacuation orders were being reduced greatly and many of the 2,500 people who fled Friday night would be able to return home.

County Fire Chief Eric Peterson thanked residents for heeding the call to evacuate, allowing firefighters to focus on fire suppression rather than rescues.

"There's very likely would have been fatalities last night had those evacuations not occurred,"

Peterson said.

The fire's spread was stopped at about 100 acres in a neighborhood where some houses were in ruins while homes next door were intact.

Eric Durtschi stood outside his destroyed house, where a burned-out car stood in the driveway and kids' bicycles were strewn about.

Durtschi, his wife and six children had left Utah and moved in just a few weeks ago. He said he hadn't yet told his two oldest children their home was gone. He managed to collect his severely burned vintage guns, hoping to salvage them.

A neighbor's home across the street was spared. The man had stayed through the night spraying down other people's houses.

Fires also burned on the Ma-

rine Corps' sprawling Camp Pendleton base in northern San Diego County.

Among new fires Saturday, a blaze erupted on a steep mountain slope just above the Los Angeles suburb of Burbank and helicopters pounded it with water to try to keep it from getting out of hand.

Southern California fires began erupting Friday as strong high pressure over the West spawned an epic heat wave that saw parts of Los Angeles broil in temperatures up to 117 degrees Fahrenheit. There was little relief overnight.

"Temperatures at 8 a.m. were ridiculously over 100 degrees" in foothills near Forest Falls and many inland valleys, the National Weather Service said.

Forecasters said the region's siege of heat would ease gradually through the weekend, but the unstable air mass unleashed downpours that triggered flash-flood warnings for the mountains northeast of Los Angeles.

In Utah, meanwhile, authorities allowed the return of some residents who fled a wildfire near a popular fishing lake 80 miles southeast of Salt Lake City. The blaze has burned about 75 square miles and destroyed 90 structures, including homes, cabins, sheds and garages, since starting Sunday in the mountains.

In Colorado, firefighters took advantage of occasional rainstorms to extend their containment lines at several large wildfires.

## NATION

# Trump lawyers call Comey 'Machiavellian' in note to Mueller

By ERIC TUCKER  
AND CHAD DAY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lawyers for President Donald Trump unleashed a blistering attack on former FBI Director James Comey in a confidential memo last year to the special counsel, casting him as "Machiavellian," dishonest and "unbounded by law and regulation" as they sought to undermine the credibility of a law enforcement leader they see as a critical witness against the president.

The letter, obtained by The Associated Press, underscores the intense effort by Trump's legal team during the past year to tarnish Comey's reputation and pit the president's word against that of the former FBI director. Comey's firing in May 2017 helped set in motion the appointment of special counsel Robert Mueller, and one-on-one conversations with Trump that Comey documented in a series of memos helped form the basis of Mueller's inquiry into whether the president obstructed justice.

The June 27, 2017, letter was written by Marc Kasowitz, then the president's lead lawyer, as Mueller and his team were in the early stages of their investigation into Trump associates and as they had begun examining whether the president, by firing Comey, had sought to stymie an FBI investigation into the Trump campaign's ties to Russia. The White House initially pointed as justification for the firing to a Justice Department memo that faulted Comey for his handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation, though Trump later said that "this Russia thing" was on his mind when he made the move.

It's not clear to what extent, if any, the attacks on Comey have resonated with Mueller's team, which is broadly investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election and continues to seek an interview with the president to assess whether he had a corrupt intent when he fired the FBI director. And even in the face of withering criticism, Comey has been largely consistent in his telling of his interactions with Trump in his memos,

his book and press interviews he's given in recent months.

The 13-page document provides a window into the formation of a legal strategy that remains in use today by Trump's lawyers — to discredit Comey's value as a witness. It could have new relevance in the aftermath of a Justice Department inspector general report that criticized Comey for departing from protocol in the Clinton investigation.

The letter aims to identify for Mueller what the lawyers believe are grievous errors both in how Comey handled the Clinton investigation and in his early, and limited, encounters with the president. In it, Kasowitz argues that Comey cannot be trusted as a witness because he repeatedly embellished his testimony before Congress, put his "own personal interests and emotions" above FBI protocol and left a cloud of undue suspicion above the president's head.

"Over the last year, Mr. Comey has engaged in a pattern of calculated unilateral action unbounded by governing law, regulation and practice, and plainly motivated by personal and political self-interest," wrote Kasowitz, who has since stepped aside as lead lawyer.

Lawyers for Comey declined to comment Saturday, as did Peter Carr, a spokesman for Mueller. Kasowitz and Trump lawyer Jay Sekulow did not return messages, and former Trump attorney John Dowd declined to comment.

The document, unlike other correspondence between Trump lawyers and Mueller's team, does not dwell on questions of Trump's guilt or innocence. Instead, it casts in a negative light actions that Comey has said he carefully reasoned and that he has vigorously defended in his book and interviews. Those include the decision to announce without Justice Department consultation the conclusion of the Clinton investigation, and the decision months later to brief Trump, then the president-elect, on salacious allegations about him in a dossier.

"Mr. Comey continued his Machiavellian behavior after President Trump was elected," Kasowitz wrote.



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump meets with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on May 17 in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

## Trump set to meet worried NATO heads, then Putin

By JILL COLVIN  
AND JONATHAN LEMIRE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With the established global order on shaky footing, President Donald Trump's weeklong trip to Europe will test already strained bonds with some of the U.S.'s closest allies, then will put him face to face with the leader of the country whose electoral interference was meant to help put him into office.

Trump departs Tuesday on a four-nation tour amid simmering disputes over trade and military spending with fellow Western democracies and speculation about whether he will rebuke or embrace Russian President Vladimir Putin. He meets the Russian leader in Helsinki as the finale of a trip with earlier stops in Belgium, England and Scotland.

Trump has shown little regard for America's traditional bonds with the Old World, publicly upbraiding world leaders at NATO's new headquarters a year ago for not spending enough on defense and delivering searing indictments of Western trading partners last month at an international summit in Canada. On this trip, after meeting with NATO

leaders in Brussels, he'll travel to the United Kingdom, where widespread protests are expected, before he heads to one of his Scottish golf resorts for the weekend.

In the run-up to his trip, the president did little to ease European concerns by delivering fresh broadsides against NATO, an intergovernmental military alliance of 29 North American and European countries aimed at countering possible Russian aggression.

"I'll tell NATO: 'You've got to start paying your bills,'" Trump pledged at a rally last week in Montana in which he bemoaned that Americans were "the schmucks that are paying for the whole thing."

He then laced into German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who will be in attendance in Brussels, complaining about how much the U.S. put toward Germany's defense. "And I said, you know, Angela, I can't guarantee it, but we're protecting you, and it means a lot more to you ... I don't know how much protection we get from protecting you."

At the same time, he declared that "Putin is fine" and that he had been preparing for his summit "all my life."

Experts fear the trip could produce a repeat of the dynamics from Trump's last trip abroad, when he admonished Group of Seven allied nations at a summit in Canada before heading to Singapore, where he showered praise on one of America's longest-standing adversaries, North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

"What people are worried about this trip is he'll have equally difficult interactions with his NATO counterparts," including Merkel and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, said James Goldgeier, a visiting senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and professor at American University, who is an expert in NATO and security alliances.

"The main concern is he will spend much of the time berating them on not spending enough on defense" before having "a love fest with Putin, like he did with Chairman Kim," Goldgeier said. He added that if Trump is warmer toward Putin than the leaders of the military alliance that was founded to protect Europe from Soviet threats, it would go "a long way to undermining NATO, undermining the trans-Atlantic relationship, undermining our relationship with our allies."

## Announcement of Trump Supreme Court choice nears

By CATHERINE LUCY, ZEKE MILLER  
AND KEN THOMAS  
Associated Press

BERKELEY HEIGHTS, N.J. — President Donald Trump is on his choice to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy on Saturday, making final deliberations from the privacy of his New Jersey golf club.

Clearly relishing the mounting suspense, Trump tweeted early in the morning: "Big decision will soon be made on our next Justice of the Supreme Court!"

The president, who is planning a Monday night announcement from the East

Room in the White House, has told reporters that he was focused on four people and "of the four people, I have it down to three or two." He had dinner Friday night with Vice President Mike Pence, who also has been meeting with some of the finalists.

The president's top contenders include federal appeals court judges Brett Kavanaugh and Raymond Kethledge, with judges Thomas Hardiman and Amy Coney Barrett also considered in the mix. As part of the rollout process, the White House has been preparing information packages on all four, said two people familiar with the process who were not authorized to speak publicly

and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Starting from a list of 25 names vetted by conservative groups, Trump also has given serious consideration to federal appeals court judges Amul Thapar and Joan Larsen.

The president enjoyed the suspenseful process leading up to his announcement last year that he was nominating Neil Gorsuch for the high court and is hoping to keep the guessing game going until he announces his pick Monday in prime time.

The president and White House officials involved in the process have fielded calls and messages and have been on the re-

ceiving end of public pleas and op-eds for or against specific candidates ever since Kennedy announced on June 27 that he would retire this summer.

As Trump's list tightened, there was some internal concern that the president's options could be narrowed by the public outcry — particularly what had appeared to be mounting conservative reservations about Kavanaugh. But in recent days the White House has seen the pressure ebb, as Kavanaugh's defenders — most recently Alberto Gonzales, who served as attorney general under President George W. Bush — have provided balance.

## NATION

# Idaho child marriage rates among tops in US

By ISABELLA ALVES  
Post Register

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — Many people know of couples who married in their teens and went on to live happily ever after.

Shirley Perez's story is not that story.

Raped at 12, married to her rapist at 13 and abused for 12 years before finally getting a divorce — Perez's story of teen marriage was a personal hell, and she's still suffering.

The man she was forced to marry was 39 years old. She had her first child with him at age 14.

Perez cannot read or write, her education was robbed from her. She never got the chance to go to school because she was busy raising the five children she had over the course of her 12-year marriage.

Idaho has the highest rate per capita of child marriage in the United States, of the 38 states that track the data, according to data from the national advocacy group Unchained at Last. The U.S. State Department in its "United States Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls" lists marriage under the age of 18 as a human rights abuse.

Nationally, the average age for women getting married for the first time reached 27.4 years in 2017, according to the Census Bureau.

For men, it's slightly older at



JOHN ROARK/The Idaho Post-Register via AP

**Teena McBride, executive director of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center, poses for a photo on June 6. McBride got her start at the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center after being in an abusive relationship for 16 years.**

29.5 years, a Women's Health article said. That's the longest Americans have ever waited to get married, the article said.

In Idaho, the average age for first-time brides is 25.9, while the average for first-time grooms is 28. And each year hundreds of teenagers get married in the Gem State.

In recent years there has been a push to ban child marriage in the U.S.

Last month, Delaware Gov. John Carney signed into law a bill that sets the minimum age to marry at 18, with no exceptions.

In 2017, New York state enacted restrictions on child marriage, raising the minimum age from 14 to 18 and requiring parental and judicial consent for marriage of those between 17 years old and 18 years old.

In Utah, state Rep. Angela Romero, D-Salt Lake City, plans to introduce a bill next year to raise the minimum age for matrimony to 18, the Salt Lake Tribune reported.

Those efforts have not gained traction in Idaho.

There is no minimum age for marriage in Idaho. Sixteen- and

17-year-olds can get married with parental consent, and children younger than 16 can do so with a court order and physician exam.

The court order requirement is designed to protect children from being forced into marriage by making sure a judge sees to the well-being of minors.

But those protections didn't help Perez.

Perez said she's still suffering today from the ramifications of her teen marriage.

Possibly to mask the scandal of the age difference between her and husband, someone lied on her marriage license, saying she was 16 instead of 13.

Her birth certificate confirms she was 13 at the time of the marriage: Perez was born in 1953 and married in 1966 in Idaho Falls.

"I think that's probably one of the reasons he probably married me, young body — you know what I mean? And to keep himself from getting in trouble," Perez said.

Outside of marriage, a 39-year-old having sex with a 13-year-old would be classified as rape or lewd conduct with a minor, which can carry up to a life sentence. In Idaho, a minor cannot consent to sex.

It's not unheard-of for adult men to marry their teen partners to avoid criminal prosecution.

"And so in a way, if (marriage) can become a tool, so if I, as an adult person with someone 14 or 15, and I convince the parents that

it's in the best interest because I have sexual desires for that person, if I can get married then I'm protected, then I can have sex with that person and you cannot charge me," said Teena McBride, executive director of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center in Idaho Falls.

Adjusting the marital law surrounding minors to follow the rape statute, which allows minors 16 and older to have sex with a person within three years of the turn, would be a possible solution to protect minors from marrying people much older than them, Bonneville County prosecuting attorney Daniel Clark said.

But the way the current law is written, there is the marriage loophole for potential abuse.

"I don't think the court should be signing off on such things," Clark said. "In my view that seems to circumvent the purpose of the statutory rape statute."

And Perez's case isn't isolated, nor is it a problem embedded in the past.

There are still teen girls being married to men who are over the age of 18 and it's legal because of this loophole. It's rarer for teen boys to be married to older women.

"If it (the law) unintentionally gives the ability of a pedophile or someone to molest a child, there should be an update to that law," Clark said. "Let's not make it legal by saying I do."

## South Carolina sees nearly 7,000 child brides in 20 years

By LAUREN SAUSSER  
The (Charleston) Post and Courier

Nearly 7,000 underage girls — some as young as 12 and 13 — have wed older males in South Carolina over the past 20 years, endangered by decades-old legal loopholes that can expose children to sexual abuse.

In some cases, these grooms are much older. Since 1997, dozens of South Carolina men in their 40s, 50s and 60s have married teenage girls who were not yet 18.

Many of these unions are made possible by a 1962 state law that sets no minimum age for marriage as long as the bride is pregnant. The rule was designed to reduce the number of babies born out of wedlock. But critics argue that it allows older men to sexually exploit younger brides who are themselves still children.

Indeed, many of these marriages meet the criteria for child rape. Under existing state laws, an adult man who marries a child can face prosecution for having sex with a minor — a felony — and also marry his pregnant victim with her parent's blessing.

As recently as 2014, a 14-year-old girl and a 27-year-old man were granted a marriage license in South Carolina. In 1997, a 16-year-old girl married a 60-year-old Deanna Everhardt Winters can't remember which one of her parents signed the form allowing her to marry an 18-year-old boyfriend in 1987. She was 14, already a mom.

"I was just a baby," Winters said.

North Carolina wouldn't grant Winters and her boyfriend a marriage license, she said. But a probate judge across the border in Upstate South Carolina would. So they drove to Gaffney.

"By today's standards, even I would consider it sexual abuse," said Winters, who divorced her husband within two years. "I didn't have a childhood."

Alongside the teen birth rate, the number of underage marriages has been dropping for decades. Most county probate courts in South Carolina won't issue marriage licenses to applicants under the age of 16 anymore.

But a few probate judges, who are elected by the public but not required to hold law degrees, still lean on a rule passed by the General Assembly 56 years ago that allows pregnant adolescents — of any age — to tie the knot.

Spartanburg County Probate Judge Ponda Caldwell is one of them.

"The law specifically says 'without regard to age,'" Caldwell said. "Why should we get in the way of them legitimizing their babies?"

But Caldwell, and most of her colleagues, agree that the law begs clarification.

"It wouldn't be a bad idea if the Legislature looked at this and maybe re-evaluated where we are today since the law was passed back in the '60s," she said.

So far, that hasn't happened. Most states offer provisions that allow teenagers younger than 18 to marry, but a national movement to close these loopholes is gaining ground. Meanwhile, South Carolina lawmakers have largely ignored the issue.

Statehouse politicians in Columbia introduce legislation every year to protect unborn children and restrict abortion, but they have passed nothing in nearly 20 years to prevent minors from entering into child marriages — with adults or each other.

In 2002, records obtained by The Post

and Courier show that a 12-year-old girl in this state married a 14-year-old boy.

"That's just wrong," said Sen. Katrina Shealy, a Lexington Republican who has been active on child-protection issues. "I was really unaware that so many people under the age of 16 were getting married."

Shealy said she intends to pre-file a bill in December to make sure this can't happen.

"It's going to be fixed," she said. "Unicef, an international child rights organization, defines 'child marriage' as 'a formal marriage or informal union before age 18.' The practice is typically linked with developing countries in the Middle East and Central Africa, where forced marriages and teenage pregnancy rates soar."

That's why the U.S. State Department has declared child marriage a gender-discrimination and human rights issue.

But child marriages aren't unique to poorer countries. Most states carve out exceptions that allow teenagers to wed long before they can vote or buy alcohol. In South Carolina, children can get married before they're old enough to drive.

"I think the general perception of child marriage is that it happens elsewhere," said Katelyn Brewer, the executive director of Darkness to Light, a nonprofit group dedicated to eradicating child sexual abuse. "And we're not aware that there are children in this country marrying men — or women, I guess — who are considerably older."

In relatively few cases, teenage boys in South Carolina have married adult women. But girls are disproportionately impacted by the state's rules.

South Carolina's marriage code sets the legal age to marry at 18 but allows 16- and

17-year-olds to wed with their parents' permission. The law was updated 18 years ago to prevent younger teenagers from obtaining a marriage license by stipulating that "(a)ny person under the age of sixteen is not capable of entering into a valid marriage."

But an older section of the law allows girls to marry if they become pregnant or give birth. It was never erased from the books and sets no minimum age for marriage.

"It's like legalizing statutory rape," said Carole Swiecki, executive director of the Deane Norman Child Advocacy Center in Charleston. "It's crazy. I actually had no idea this law existed. That makes no sense. It's a crime."

The age of consent in South Carolina is 16, but teenagers as young as 14 may agree to have sex with a partner who is no more than 18 years old.

"That puts many of these underage marriages in conflict with the state's sexual assault laws. Take the 14-year-old girl and the 32-year-old man who were granted a marriage license in South Carolina in 2007. She was not old enough to consent to sex, but the law allowed her to marry the man anyway."

"We're talking about an adult male sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl," Swiecki said. "That is absolutely a crime."

Practically, a child bride needs only to have hit puberty and prove that she's pregnant to obtain a marriage license in South Carolina.

The older rule does not require the groom's parents to consent to the marriage, but at least one of the bride's parents must sign off.





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## NATION

## Hesitation and hope



PHOTOS BY LAURA A. ODA, (SAN RAMON, CALIF.) BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/TNS

The interior of one of 20 Tuff Sheds converted into rooms to house two people is seen May 7 during a media tour of the newest Tuff Sheds community Oakland, Calif.

## Homeless greet Oakland's newest Tuff Sheds community with mixed reactions

By MARISA KENDALL  
The Mercury News

OAKLAND, Calif. — Lezett Maurice Watkins, who spent the past three months living in a lean-to beneath a West Oakland overpass, is apprehensive about where his next move will take him — into an experimental, city-sanctioned community of converted sheds across the street.

His new home will offer comforts his current, makeshift den does not, including a cot, a locking door and a path toward permanent housing. But it comes with a list of rules and a degree of surveillance that make Watkins edgy. Residents can't cook their own food, must sign into and out of the compound, and can't use drugs or drink alcohol on the premises. And each must live with a roommate.

"That's hard for me," said Watkins, who built a small wall around his lean-to with wooden pallets to keep neighbors out. "My trust level is zero."

Watkins' concerns highlight the challenges for cities across the Bay Area that are looking for innovative approaches to a growing problem. Oakland isn't the only city thinking outside the box as it struggles to provide shelter for the homeless — San Jose plans to build between 20 and 40 tiny homes for its growing population.

Oakland officials on Monday publicly unveiled the city's second community of Tuff Sheds



**Lezett Maurice Watkins, 49, one of 40 homeless people in the area who will be moving into the newest Tuff Sheds community in Oakland, Calif., hopes it will help him find a path to permanent housing.**

— 20 forest green sheds on a fenced-in lot at Northgate Avenue and 27th Street — and said the first 10 homeless residents are scheduled to start moving in this week. The new sheds are the next phase in Oakland's plan to tackle a crisis that has sent shantytowns sprawling across the city's sidewalks and displaced families into parked cars and RVs that line the streets.

The Northgate project cost almost \$1 million, including \$175,000 for the sheds, \$550,000 for on-site staffing and services and a \$125,000 fund for helping residents land permanent housing — but the funds came from

outside donors, not from the city's coffers.

Watkins was one of several people living in a massive encampment at Northgate and 27th who expressed reservations about moving into the sheds but said they were willing to give it a try.

"I'm hopefully going to give this one a shot," said Jonathan Jacobs, 31. "But if this one doesn't work out, I'm going to have to construct another plan."

To Jacobs, the Tuff Sheds aren't a huge step up from his tent on Northgate.

"We're still here on the street," he said, "it's just on the other side of the street."

Oakland launched its first Tuff Shed community in December, erecting 20 units at Sixth and Brush streets, and city officials say they have since improved the shelters. The new sheds have three windows instead of one, with double panes of glass to better block out the roar of the freeway and BART trains thundering by overhead. Other improvements include more insulation, doors with deadbolts and low-voltage electricity to power an LED light and to charge cellphones. The sheds also are slightly longer than the prior units, providing more space between roommates.

"These Tuff Shed shelters are better," Assistant City Administrator Joe DeVries, who has spearheaded the project, said during a media tour. "These will be quieter inside. They'll be warmer in the winter. They'll be cooler in the summer."

The lot will have portable toilets, and nonprofit Lava Mae will bring a shower trailer to the site twice per week. Residents are permitted to have pets and may invite guests over during the day. While they can't drink or use drugs in the compound, they don't have to be sober to live there.

"We really are trying to make this hospitable and welcoming," Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf said Monday.

Officials say eight people who moved into the Sixth Street sheds have found permanent housing since, and 15 have found jobs.

Officials hope each resident of the new Tuff Shed community will find a job and permanent housing within six months.

But Eugene Jacobs, 27, who sleeps in a large tent on Sycamore Street, said he's not moving into one of the new Tuff Sheds. Jacobs, who said he suffers from bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, knows the dangers of life on the street — he recently woke up to find his tent on fire. But Jacobs, who is Jonathan Jacobs' cousin, doesn't like the idea of being confined in a tiny shed behind a fence.

"It makes me feel like I might as well be in jail," he said.



**E. Jacobs**

Those who decline the Tuff Sheds can move into the homeless shelter at nearby St. Vincent de Paul Community Center, but they won't be allowed to remain on the street in that area.

Lester Vender, of Operation Dignity, who will be the site manager at the Northgate Tuff Shed community, said people want to move into the sheds. When construction started on the project, more homeless people began moving into the surrounding encampments, hoping to land spots in sheds.

"They are eager to come in," he said, "the majority of them."

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# WORLD

## Rescue: Operation to free boys 'went much better than expected'

### FROM FRONT PAGE

"The operation went much better than expected," Narongsak said at a news conference, adding that the healthiest were taken out first. He said the next phase of the operation would start in 10 to 20 hours.

The entire operation to rescue all 13 could last two to four days, depending on weather and water conditions, said army Maj. Gen. Chalongsai Chaiyakarn.

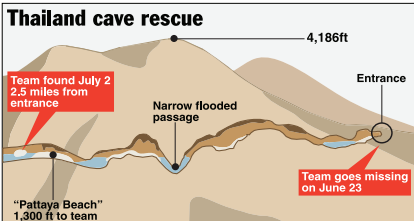
Just after 9 p.m., Thai navy SEALs posted on their Facebook page again, saying: "Have sweet dreams everyone. Good night. Hooyah."

Narongsak said earlier in the day that 13 foreign and five Thai divers were taking part in the rescue and that two divers would accompany each boy as they're extracted gradually.

The only way to bring the boys and their coach out of the cave is by navigating dark, tight passageways filled with muddy water and strong currents, as well as oxygen-depleted air. A former Thai navy SEAL passed out and died making the dive Friday.

Experienced cave rescue experts consider an underwater escape a last resort, especially with people untrained in diving, as the boys are. The path out is considered especially complicated because of twists and turns in narrow, flooded passages.

But Narongsak said earlier that mild weather and falling water levels during the last few days had created optimal conditions for an underwater evacuation that won't last if it rains again.



SOURCES: AP Washington Post

Noca Am-aw/Stars and Stripes

Before announcing that the rescue was underway, authorities ordered the throngs of media that have gathered at the cave from around the world to leave.

The boys and their coach became stranded when they went exploring in the cave after a practice game June 23. Monsoon flooding cut off their escape and prevented rescuers from finding them for almost 10 days.

The ordeal has riveted Thailand and has made global headlines, and the search-and-rescue operation has involved international experts and rescuers.

President Donald Trump said in a tweet on Sunday: "The U.S. is working very closely with the Government of Thailand to help get all of the children out of the cave and to safety. Very brave and talented people!"

Authorities had said that incoming monsoon rains that could send water levels in the cave rising, coupled with falling oxygen levels

in the enclosed space, added to the urgency of getting those trapped out. Earlier efforts to pump out water from the cave have been set back every time there has been a heavy downpour.

Narongsak said Saturday that experts told him water from new rain could shrink the unflooded space where the boys are sheltering to just 108 square feet.

"I confirm that we are at war with water and time from the first day up to today," he said Saturday. "Finding the boys doesn't mean we've finished our mission. It is only a small battle we've won, but the war has not ended. The war ends when we win all three battles — the battles to search, rescue and send them home."

The boys sounded calm and reassuring in handwritten notes to their families that were made public Saturday. The notes were sent out with divers who made an 11-hour, back-and-forth journey to act as postmen.



AP

Chiang Rai acting Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn speaks to the media during a briefing on the cave rescue plans in Chiang Rai, Thailand.

One of the boys, identified as Tun, wrote, "Mom and Dad, please don't worry, I am fine. I've told Yod to get ready to take me out for fried chicken. With love."

"Don't be worried, I miss everyone. Grandpa, Uncle, Mom, Dad and siblings, I love you. I'm happy being here inside, the navy SEALs have taken good care. Love you all," wrote Mick.

"Night loves Dad and Mom and brother, don't worry about me. Night loves you all," wrote Night, in the Thai manner of referring to one's self in the third person.

In a letter of his own, the coach, Ekapol Chanthawong, apologized to the boys' parents for the ordeal.

"To the parents of all the kids, right now the kids are all fine,

the crew are taking good care. I promise I will care for the kids as best as possible. I want to say thanks for all the support and I want to apologize to the parents," he wrote.

An update Saturday from the Thai navy said three navy SEALs, one a doctor, were with the boys and their coach.

The 13 were having health evaluations and rehabilitation, and were being taught diving skills. Food, electrolyte drinks, oxygen water, medicine and drinking canisters have been delivered to them.

A major concern of the rescuers is that oxygen levels in their safe space could fall dangerously low.

## UK home secretary reassures residents over poisoning case

By GREGORY KATZ  
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's home secretary visited Amesbury and Salisbury in southwestern England Sunday to reassure residents that the risk to the public remains very low despite the recent poisoning of two people exposed to a deadly nerve agent.

Sajid Javid said both towns remain open for business and urged people to visit what he called one of the most beautiful parts of the country.

Javid was the first senior official to visit the area since Dawn Sturgess, 44, and her partner, Charley Rowley, 45, were hospitalized in critical condition last week. Officials said they had come into contact with the deadly nerve agent Novichok, which was manufactured in the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Officials believe the poisoning may have been caused by exposure to Novichok that was disposed of after the March attack on ex-Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia.

More than 100 police officers were deployed to try to locate a small vial believed to have contained the nerve agent that sickened the two. Officials say the search-and-cleanup operation will take weeks or even months to complete.

Counterterrorism police also are studying roughly 1,300 hours of closed circuit television footage in hopes of finding clues about the couple's activities in the hours before they became violently ill.

Detectives want to know where the couple were to get new leads on where the contamination might



BEN BIRCHALL, PA/AP

Britain's Home Secretary Sajid Javid, center, exits the police cordon Sunday in Amesbury, England, where counterterrorism officers are investigating after a couple were left in critical condition when they were exposed to the nerve agent Novichok.

have occurred.

British Prime Minister Theresa May said the March attack on the Skripals had been ordered by the Russian government, a charge denied by representatives of Russian President Vladimir Putin. The case led to the expulsion of Russian diplomats from Britain, the U.S. and other countries.

The new poisoning has frightened some residents who thought an extensive cleanup had removed the threat of any further Novichok exposure.

Hospital officials said late Saturday that a number of people, including a police officer, had sought medical advice in the past week but had been found not to need any treatment.

## Thailand promises justice for Chinese boat tragedy victims

By EILEEN NG  
Associated Press

PHUKET, Thailand — Thailand's government pledged Sunday to ensure justice for Chinese victims of a tour boat that sank in a storm off the southern resort island of Phuket, killing 42 people and leaving another 14 missing.

Tourism Minister Weerasak Kowsurat said the government will "spare no one" as it seriously investigates the tragedy, one of the largest tourism-related disasters in Thailand since a 2004 tsunami that killed thousands.

Police were investigating whether the double-decker Phoenix dive boat had been inspected by marine officials as required before it set sail Thursday, Weerasak said. The Meteorological Department issued warnings for small ships not to go to sea that day, but bigger boats like the Phoenix could sail after inspection.

The boat, with 105 people, including 93 tourists, capsized and sank after it was hit by 16-foot

waves. Officials said all of the dead were Chinese, comprising 13 children, 18 women and 10 men. The age and sex of another body wasn't known.

Tourism is a vital part of the Thai economy, with the World Bank estimating the Southeast Asian nation generates about 12 percent of its gross domestic product from tourism receipts. Chinese tourists are a key driver of the industry, accounting for 9.8 million of the record 35.38 million tourists to visit the country last year.

Local police chief Sorasak Yenpremsai said the captain of the Phoenix has been charged with "careless conduct leading to death" and could face more than three years in jail.

He said the captain of another boat that capsized Thursday and the manager of a travel agency that chartered the boat also have been charged for being careless leading to injuries. All the passengers from the second ship were rescued.

## WORLD



AP

Keeper Zachariah Mutai attends to Fatu, one of only two female northern white rhinos left in the world, at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Laikipia County in Kenya in March.

## Scientists create hybrids to save rhino sub-species

By FRANK JORDANS  
Associated Press

BERLIN — Scientists say they're several steps closer to perfecting a method that could prevent the extinction of northern white rhinos, of which only two animals are known still to be alive.

According to a paper published Wednesday in the journal *Nature Communications*, researchers have succeeded in creating embryos using frozen northern white rhino sperm and eggs from a southern white rhino, a closely related sub-species.

It's the first time such hybrid embryos have been created and the scientists from Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic say it could provide a pathway to saving the critically endangered northern white rhino after the last male, called Sudan, died in March.

They plan to harvest the egg cells of the two surviving female rhinos soon and use preserved sperm to produce "pure" northern white rhino embryos. Since the females, a mother and daughter called Najin and Fatu, are unable to bear offspring themselves, the embryos would be implanted in a southern white rhino surrogate.

In order to increase the supply of eggs and preserve the northern white rhino's genetic diversity, scientists are also working on a second method that would coax frozen skin cells from deceased animals into becoming egg cells, a procedure that has already succeeded in mice.

Thomas Hildebrandt, of the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin, said researchers hope the first northern white rhino calf will be born in about three years.

"We are quite confident with the technology we have developed," he said during a telephone conference with reporters detailing the research.

Saving the northern white rhino has become an international effort, with cooperation but also some rivalry among scientists and institutions around the world, including zoos in San Diego and Cincinnati.

Some experts have criticized the effort however, saying it comes too late.

"I have no doubt that its purely scientific merit is laudable and it might have some application to endangered species conservation in the future," said Richard Kock, a conservationist at Britain's Royal Veterinary College who has worked extensively in Africa. "But I am afraid it is very much Nero fiddling

along as Rome is burning with respect to (northern) white rhino."

Kock and fellow conservationists warned against focusing only on the northern white rhino sub-species, noting that its southern cousin has come back from the brink of extinction and now numbers some 21,000 individuals.

Instead, they suggested, work should focus on saving other endangered rhino species that can still be found in the wild.

"Assisted reproductive technologies are very expensive and their success is far from guaranteed. Meanwhile, we don't have enough funding to conserve the other four rhino species, all of which are more threatened with extinction than the white rhino," said Bob Smith, director of the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology at the University of Kent, England.

Hildebrandt insisted the effort is worthwhile. "The northern white rhino didn't fail in evolution," he said. "It failed because it's not bulletproof. It was slaughtered by criminals which went for the horn because the horn costs more than gold."

Northern white rhinos were once abundant across Central and East Africa, but conflicts and poaching wiped them from their natural habitat.

The rhino's disappearance has left a void in the region's ecosystem that could have significant impacts in the future, Hildebrandt said. "We have the tools in our hands to correct that."

Cesare Galli, whose Italy-based company Avantes has lengthy experience with the artificial reproduction of horses, said recent advances in stem cell technology could help the rhino preservation effort. The team is hoping that within a decade, scientists will be able to produce new rhino eggs from frozen skin cells.

Jan Stejskal, a spokesman for Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic, which has a long history of rhino conservation, said scientists hope to travel to Kenya before the end of the year. They are still waiting for permission from Kenyan authorities to perform the delicate procedure of removing egg cells from Najin and Fatu.

While the scientists are confident about being able to harvest eggs from the two females, questions remain over the risk to the rare animals' health.

"We as scientists are highly afraid that something unexpected happens during that procedure," said Hildebrandt. "That would be a nightmare."

## South Korean women protest 'spy cam porn'

By KIM TONG-HYUNG  
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Thousands of South Korean women gathered in Seoul on Saturday to demand stronger government action to fight the spread of intimate photos and video taken by hidden cameras, which they say has women living in constant anxiety and distress.

Police said about 18,000 took part in the all-women protest, with demonstrators calling for stronger investigations and punishments against male offenders who photograph or film women without their knowledge and post the material online.

Most of the protesters covered their faces with baseball caps, sunglasses and surgical masks as instructed by organizers, who intended to make a statement against an environment in which women constantly worry about tiny cameras hidden in bathrooms or being filmed from under their skirts at subway stations. However, there was also criticism about the organizers' tight control over the protests and the decision to block the participation of those who weren't "biologically women."

Protesters, many of them wearing red T-shirts with signs that read "Angry women will change the world," roared in support as two women volunteered to have their heads shaved on a stage.

"Let's fight until the last seed of illicit filming dies!" one protester shouted into the microphone while another shaved off her hair. "Here's my message to men: I am not an object of our sexual desires! I am a first-rate citizen, just like you!"

South Korea has struggled over the years to deal with perpetrators who use tiny cameras or smartphones to film under wom-

en's clothing to see their genitals or underwear. The footage is heavily circulated on illicit porn sites, such as Soranet, which had more than a million users before police managed to shut it down in 2016. An unknown number of similar sites are still running.

Since 2004, South Korea has required smartphones to make large shutter sounds when taking pictures and videos to prevent such crimes. However, phone cameras can be silenced through apps and there's also an abundance of miniaturized cameras that can be hidden inside bags, shoes and toilets or small holes drilled into bathroom walls and doors.

Amid rising criticism, South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday ordered government officials to explore tougher punishments for hidden-camera crimes and also ensure that the perpetrators' actions are immediately notified to employees.

"We must make sure that the offenders suffer greater damage than the damage they inflict," Moon said in a Cabinet meeting.

The national government plans to spend \$4.5 million to equip local governments with more camera detecting equipment and strengthen inspections of bathrooms in public spaces and private buildings. There are also plans to widen inspections to elementary, middle and high schools.

Under South Korean law, creating intimate sexual images without consent is punishable by a prison term of up to five years or a fine of up to \$8,900. Distributing such images for the purpose of profit is punishable by up to seven years in prison or a \$27,000 fine.

Saturday's gathering in Seoul was a follow-up to large protests by women in May and June over the proliferation of hidden-camera images as pornographic material.



Ryu Hye-lim/Yonhap via AP

Woman protesters stage a rally to demand stronger government action to fight the spread of intimate photos and footage taken by hidden cameras in Seoul, South Korea, on Saturday.

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Lt. Col. Sean Kilmer, Europe commander  
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## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
leonard.terry@starsandstripes.com  
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
reid.robert@starsandstripes.com  
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content  
croley.tina@starsandstripes.com  
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
moores.sean@starsandstripes.com  
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
gromelski.joe@starsandstripes.com

## BUREAU STAFF

### Europe/Mideast

Erk Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
slavin.erk@starsandstripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

### Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
kidd.aaron@starsandstripes.com  
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)277.380

### Washington

Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
caccioli.joseph@starsandstripes.com  
(+1)202(761.0908, DSN (312)763.0908  
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
bowers.brian@starsandstripes.com

## CIRCULATION

### Mideast

Robert Reismann, reismann.robert@starsandstripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9150, DSN (314)583.9150

### Europe

Van Rowell, rowell.van@starsandstripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9111, DSN (314)583.9111

### Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@starsandstripes.com  
+81-3 6885.3171; DSN (312)229.3171

## CONTACT US

### Washington

tel. (+1)202-761-0900; DSN (312)763.0900;  
529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC  
20045-1301

### Reader letters

letters@starsandstripes.com

### Additional contacts

starsandstripes.com/contacts

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## OPINION

# DOD OK with more shoppers on base

By TOM PHILPOTT  
Special to Stars and Stripes

**D**efense Department officials have told Congress they conditionally support opening on-base shopping to disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients and caregivers of severely injured veterans — changes to current law that would add at least a few hundred thousand weekly shoppers to commissaries and exchanges nationwide.

The initiative to allow more veterans access to military stores, which is gaining political steam, is found in the House-passed version of the fiscal 2019 defense authorization. Proponents argue it would reward with shopper discounts deserving veterans who live near military bases and also would strengthen a beleaguered military resale system.

Commissaries in particular are seen as in trouble after 50 consecutive months of declining sales and pressure mounting to reduce the \$1.3 billion annual appropriation needed to sustain current grocery discounts on base.

At the direction of Congress, the department completed a study last December on the feasibility of expanding access to limited base shopping to veterans with VA disability ratings of 30 percent or higher and also to Purple Heart recipients. The expanded shopping benefit eyed is described as “limited” because it would exclude on-base purchases of alcohol and tobacco products and of military uniform items.

The study concluded it is feasible to open base stores to these veterans if Congress also granted authority to assess these “secondary” patrons an additional 5 percent user fee at commissaries to offset higher operating costs tied to the move.

But the study found no need to apply, as Congress suggested, a 30 percent rating threshold on shopping privileges. Base stores could be opened to any veteran with a disability rating between 0 and 90 percent, the department concluded. Veterans rated 100 percent disabled already can shop on base.

To gain access to bases, these secondary groups of shoppers could use their Department of Veterans Affairs-issued Veterans Health Identification Cards, which identify the holders as having a service-connected disabilities, the report said. The Defense Department's electronic physical access control system, to be completed by September 2019, will accept the VIDC to enable streamlined access to bases and shopping facilities.

The department said it previously opposed extending shopping privileges to more large patron groups but circumstances have changed, the study explained. It cited the military's shift to a blended retirement system, “significant changes in the commercial grocery and retail industries” and the need to cut appropriated fund support “for the Defense resale ecosystem.”

The department now “recognizes that a large influx of new patrons is necessary to continue efficiently providing commissary and exchange benefits into the future. Similar to the [new] retirement option, offering lifetime commissary and exchange benefits to veterans will help attract younger generations to military service.”

The department even will consider opening bases to all honorably discharged veterans if expansion to disabled vets show further expansion would help the department, if planned consolidation of exchanges and commissaries would create capacity to handle more shoppers, if secure, cost-effective credentialing is doable for all veterans, and if base security and stores can handle an even greater influx of shoppers.



JOSHUA ARENDTS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Customers check out at the Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., commissary in February.

## MILITARY UPDATE

Armed with the department study, Rep. Daniel Lipinski, D-Ill. reintroduced a bill last April, the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018, that would allow access to base stores and other morale, welfare, and recreation facilities to any veteran with service-connected disabilities, Purple Heart and Medal of Honor recipients, former prisoners of war and veteran caregivers. Through a floor amendment, that language was made part of the House version of the fiscal 2019 defense authorization bill (HR 5515).

In late June, Stephanie Barna, special assistant to the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, told a meeting of the American Logistics Association that the department supports the House-passed provision if Congress allows a 5 percent user fee on these “secondary” groups of stores users, as called for in the department's study.

Lipinski, in a phone interview, said that's acceptable to him.

The Senate's defense bill is silent on allowing more veterans to shop on base. With a House-Senate conference committee now formed to negotiate away differences in separate versions of the bill, Lipinski wrote a letter June 21 to the armed services committees' chairmen and ranking members that urges acceptance of the House language to award base access and shopping discounts to these groups.

“It is our duty as a nation to not only say we appreciate their service but also to enact policies demonstrating that gratitude. We should all agree that these veterans have done more than enough to earn access to these facilities,” Lipinski wrote. “But not only would this provision make the lives of our veterans easier, it would also strengthen the commissary and exchange system by improving operational efficiency as well.”

Lipinski advised that his initiative is backed by “numerous veteran service organizations including the American Legion, AMVETS, the Association of the U.S. Navy, the Disabled American Veterans, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Wounded Warrior Project.”

What about military associations, which have different constituencies than do veterans' groups, I asked the congressman.

“We've gotten some mixed feedback from The Military Coalition,” he said, referring to a league of 34 military associations and veterans groups. “There are some concerns about bringing more people [into base stores]. But my view is ... there has been such drop-off” in commissary sales that to keep them open, “they have to have more patrons.”

Despite some expressions of concern, Lipinski said, he doesn't know of any military association that opposes his proposed expansion of on-base shoppers. Indeed, a check of some prominent ones — the National Military Family Association, the Military Officers Association of American and The Retired Enlisted Association — verified their support.

Lipinski said he is confident that base security and stores can adjust to handle a new wave of shoppers, most of them disabled veterans who reside near base. The study estimated that up to 3 million veterans not already eligible to shop on base have disability ratings of 0 to 90 percent. Only 184,000 of them, however, reside close enough to military bases to shop there routinely.

The department estimates that 80 percent of newly eligible patrons would seek identification cards to be able to shop on base, increasing military costs modestly. The argument that more shoppers will mean more profits, however, doesn't apply yet to commissaries, which still rely on that annual appropriation to provide grocery items at significant cost savings to patrons.

“Although the Defense Commissary Agency is implementing best business practices, such as variable pricing and introducing private label items to realize a margin, it is required to retain the same overall average customer savings percentage,” a spokesman said.

The goal is for commissary profits gradually to reduce the need for taxpayer support. For now, however, commissaries aren't a for-profit business.

Sales could rise by opening stores to honorably discharged veterans, but so would “costs to sell items to the new patrons,” the spokesman said. And the higher costs are “not expected to be offset by the incremental [profit] margin gained from those sales, nor would that margin reduce the current level of appropriated funding as it was intended.”

That's why Congress shouldn't expand access to base grocery stores unless it also authorizes a 5 percent user fee for the “new and secondary” shoppers in addition to the 5 percent already charged all shoppers at checkout to support store modernization.

Exchanges, on the other hand, already generate profits that are used to fund on-base morale, welfare and recreational activities. Allowing disabled veterans to shop on base is expected to increase exchange profits by \$45 million annually, the department report said.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va. 20120 or email mlupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military\_Update



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Relocated bear travels 70 miles in 7 days

**NH** HANOVER — A bear that was relocated to northern New Hampshire a week ago after she and her cubs were raiding trash bins and bird feeders near Dartmouth College in Hanover is on the move, traveling nearly 70 miles in seven days as she likely tries to find her way back home and to her cubs.

The bear was captured June 29 and hauled north to Coos County, near the Canadian border, where she was released with a tracking collar. Her four cubs were taken to a center that rehabilitates orphaned cubs.

Andy Timmins, bear project leader for the state Fish and Game Department, told the Valley News he is not surprised by the sow's movements.

## Town works to protect its covered bridge

**VT** THETFORD — A small Vermont town is working to protect one of its most prized possessions, a 19th Century covered bridge, from the hazards of modern traffic.

In Thetford, the 1839 Sayre's Covered Bridge over the Ompompanoosuc River on Tucker Hill Road has been regularly damaged by vehicles that cross it.

Officials said many wooden covered bridges that carry modern traffic are often damaged by oversized and overweight vehicles and inattentive drivers.

In Thetford, the damage to the Sayre's Bridge has been mostly cosmetic. Two years ago, another Vermont covered bridge was destroyed by fire.

## Officer fires at dog with shotgun, wounds owner

**OH** CINCINNATI — Cincinnati police say an officer forced to shoot at an aggressive dog wounded the animal's owner.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported the woman was taken to a hospital for treatment after the shooting around 9 p.m. Friday.

Cincinnati police Lt. Steve Saunders said the officer fired one round with a shotgun as the dog advanced aggressively and a pellet struck the woman, who was trying to contain the animal, in the leg. The dog had earlier bitten a man.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has taken custody of the dog.

## Hundreds to participate in venerable loon count

**ME** FALMOUTH — Maine bird lovers who have counted one of the state's most beloved birds for three-and-a-half decades are getting ready to do it again.

The Maine Loon Count is taking place on July 21. It's the 35th anniversary of the count, which seeks to quantify the number of mature and young loons in the southern part of the state.

Maine Audubon promotes the annual count. The group said

## THE CENSUS

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The number of malnourished Shih Tzus police found in Ivan Paredes' lower Manhattan apartment. WABC-TV reported that neighbors called the authorities to search the home after noticing barking and a strong odor emanating from inside it last week. Authorities said the dogs weren't fed and covered in feces when officers arrived to check on them. Paredes was arrested on animal neglect charges.



ERIC GAY/AP

## Winged pursuit

Visitors pose with art work called "Alas de Mexico," or "Wings of Mexico," in Hemisfair park near the Tower of the Americas on Friday in San Antonio. The bronze wings that stand 11 feet tall and 17 feet wide are a gift from Mexico City and artist Jorge Marin in honor of San Antonio's Tricentennial.

more than 1,400 volunteers are going to participate this year, and more than 50 of them have counted loons for 25 or more years.

Last year's loon count found 2,817 adult loons and 453 chicks.

## New markers to include 'Shoeless Wonders'

**VA** RICHMOND — Ten new historical markers were approved for placement along Virginia roads, including one that tells the story of a Lynchburg-based football team known as the "Shoeless Wonders."

The team of the Presbyterian Orphans' Home played its first games in 1922. The players received minimal coaching, wore second-hand uniforms and competed without shoes except for a boot used during kickoffs. The team was undefeated for at least six straight seasons.

Another marker tells the story of a World War II German prisoner of war camp in Virginia Beach.

The Virginia highway marker program began in 1927 and is

considered the oldest such program in the nation.

## Suspect accused of taking meth to K-9 car

**SC** GOOSE CREEK — Police said a man who brought drugs with him when he opened a car door and found himself facing a drug enforcement squad simply uttered an expletive and added, "What's up, guys?"

Then he got arrested. Citing a statement from the Berkeley County, S.C., Sheriff's Office, WCSC-TV reported the team was investigating a drug complaint Thursday night and pulled up in an unmarked K-9-equipped car to encourage the suspected drug dealer to leave the area. The sheriff's office said the suspect wasn't discouraged by the dog's excited yelps.

The statement said Eric Hall, 40, dropped baggies containing suspected meth and kicked them under the police vehicle when he realized who was inside. But he was arrested, along with his passenger, Paul Howard, 40.

## Girl, 9, saves baby nephew from drowning

**MS** SEMINARY — A 9-year-old Mississippi girl saved her toddler nephew from drowning in a creek.

Sandy Caswell told WJTV that she was standing on the edge of Terrible Creek in Collins when she thought she saw a bucket floating in the water Sunday. She soon realized it was her nephew, Dwight Caswell.

Sandy said she doesn't know how to swim very well herself, but she jumped in after him and pushed him toward his dad.

## Man arrested in stolen cemetery vases case

**IA** MUSCATINE — Police arrested a 44-year-old Muscatine man on suspicion of stealing dozens of brass vases that marked graves at a local cemetery.

The Muscatine Journal said Thomas Edgar Thornburg was arrested Thursday night on sus-

picion of theft.

A police report filed last month said 15-20 vases had been taken from Muscatine Memorial Park Cemetery officials later said up to 50 of the urns may be missing.

Cemetery manager Cindy Allen has said each vase can cost up to \$650 to replace.

## Opting out of unwanted newspaper circulars

**LA** METAIRIE — A New Orleans-area community now has a "Do Not Toss" ordinance that will let residents put themselves on a list to avoid having newspaper circulars and similar materials thrown on their lawns.

A news release from the government of Jefferson Parish said parish officials have for years received complaints about possible problems with the printed materials. Concerns include papers piling up on the lawns of vacationing residents or the possibility of them clogging storm drains.

From wire reports

## FACES



## The B-52s are touring on their 40th anniversary — sort of

By JOHN CARUCCI  
Associated Press

**T**he B-52s are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. But they also might celebrate it next year. That is, if they haven't already hit the milestone.

There's no fuzzy math here — it's a just matter of which date adequately represents the origin of the band, which began in Athens, Ga.

Vocalist Fred Schneider considers 2018 as their ruby anniversary. "This is 40 years since our first single came out," Schneider said. That was the year they released the song, "Rock Lobster."

The band's other vocalist, Kate Pierson, interprets their anniversary a bit more liberally. "We started in 1976 jamming and we played our first show on Valentine's Day 1977, so we can mark 40 from there or we can mark 40 from 1979 when we did our first record," Pierson said, referring to their eponymous album.

Then she added: "It's flexible. We're milking the 40th anniversary because it's flexible."

While the actual date may be a "Cosmic Thing" — just as the title of their fifth album and hit song — there's no discrep-

**Vocalist Fred Schneider considers 2018 as their ruby anniversary.**

**"This is 40 years since our first single came out."**

**That was the year they released the song, "Rock Lobster."**

**Kate Pierson, left, and Fred Schneider of The B-52s in New York on June 21.**

CHRISTOPHER SMITH, INVISION/AP

ancy that their reputation as "the world's greatest party band" has thrived since the late 1970s.

Yet, while their sound remained upbeat, the band had some dark days, most notably the death of founding member Ricky Wilson, who succumbed to AIDS in 1985. He is the older brother of vocalist Cindy Wilson.

"There's always ups and downs in 40 years. And Ricky's death in 1985 was definitely a point where we thought we wouldn't go on. People always ask, 'Did you envision that you would have gone on for 40 years?' You know, that seemed like the end," Pierson said.

Instead, they rebounded with "Cosmic Thing," and scored their most successful album, and biggest hit single, "Love Shack" in 1989. Pierson attributes their longevity to friendship above all else.

"We all maintained our connections and our friendships, which we've maintained over all these years. We still like each other, love each other, and we realize that this was a way to heal and a way to really bring Ricky back into the mix. I think a lot of the songs recalled that time in Athens with Ricky," Pierson said.

As for the tour, the band said fans can expect more obscure stuff, like "Wig," as well as the hits. "We're not going to say, 'Hey, tonight I'm sorry. I hope you understand. We're not doing 'Rock Lobster' or 'Love Shack' or 'Roam,'" said Pierson. "No, we're going to do those."

## Casting of a transgender role sparks debate on Twitter

Scarlett Johansson's casting as a transgender character in an upcoming film has sparked controversy over what some call the gender equivalent of whitewashing, with comedian Jon Lovitz and activist and #OscarsSoWhite creator April Reign debating the issue on Twitter.

"Scarlett Johansson received considerable backlash for Ghost in the Shell, when she played a whitewashed Asian character. The movie tanked," Reign initially tweeted July 3. "Undeterred, she has teamed up WITH THE SAME DIRECTOR to play a trans male character in Rub & Tug," an upcoming crime drama about massage parlor owner Dante "Tex" Gill, who was born Lois Jean Gill but identified as a man.

Reign noted in the tweet that a representative for Johansson had responded to critics of the role's announcement July 2 by telling Bustle.com in a statement, "Tell them that they can be directed to Jeffrey Tambor, Jared Leto and Felicity Huffman's reps for comment." Those non-trans actors played trans characters in "Transamerica," "Dallas Buyers Club" and "Transmagnetic," respectively.

"It's a business," Lovitz responded July 5 in a tweet to Reign. "The movie wouldn't get financed, otherwise. Plus, the director has a vision of his film. I respectfully disagree with you. She didn't take an opportunity away from anyone. She created an opportunity, a job, an acting career, since she's 8 years old, for herself."

"I understand it's business," Reign replied in a tweet. "Her name would get it financed. As producer, she could use her platform to cast trans actors who don't often get what could be a high profile opportunity. Vision will only be enhanced by someone who can bring their personal experience to the role."

Others who objected to what critics call "cis-washing" or "transface" analogous to blackface, include transgender "Transparent" star Trace Lysette, who had accused Tambor of sexual harassment last year. "Oh word?" she tweeted July 3. "So you can continue to play us but we can't play y'all? ... I wouldn't be as upset if I was getting in the same rooms as Jennifer Lawrence and Scarlett for cis roles, but we know that's not the case."

On July 4, Lysette tweeted that in response to her criticism of Johansson's casting, she had received "death threats for being trans and speaking my mind... nothing new."

## Costello cancels tour dates

Elvis Costello has canceled the rest of his European summer tour after undergoing surgery for a "small but very aggressive" cancerous tumor.

The post-punk singer-songwriter says he needs time to recover after the operation. The 63-year-old musician said in a statement July 6 that he initially thought "normal service had been resumed" but now realized he needed more rest. He said "therefore, I must reluctantly cancel all the remaining engagements of this tour." He vowed to "return at the soonest opportunity."

The canceled concerts were in Britain, Croatia, Austria, Norway and Sweden.

## Other news

■ Singer **Chris Brown** walked off stage after his concert in Florida and into the hands of waiting deputies, who arrested him on a felony battery charge involving a nightclub photographer last year. Tampa Police released more details about the battery warrant July 6 after Brown posted \$2,000 bond to be released from the Palm Beach County Jail. The warrant accuses Brown of hitting a **Bennie Vines Jr.**, who was hired by a club in Tampa to take pictures during an event hosted by Brown in April 2017. The entertainer is in the middle of his tour.

■ "The Maze Runner" author **James Dashner** says he's working on a new book. **Dashner** tweeted July 6 that he was working on new material and wasn't using notes as a guide for his new project, which would be the first since he was dropped by publisher Three Penguin Random House imprints over sexual misconduct allegations in February.

From wire reports

## Timberlake didn't create the song of the summer (but he sure did try)

By MIKAEL WOOD  
Los Angeles Times

"Summer starts now," Justin Timberlake announces at the top of his new single, "SoulMate," and even he has to know that's not true.

(At the very latest, summer started last week, when Drake's song "Summer Games" — a far superior summer jam — came out.)

But you can understand why Timberlake would want to get us thinking about warm weather, since that



**Justin Timberlake's has declared that summer starts now in his new song.**

means we're less likely to be thinking about "Man of the

Woods," the flannel-y winter-ribes du he dropped to a resounding thud back in February.

Also: Summer is traditionally a time of victory for Timberlake, who dominated the season two years ago with the inescapable "Can't Stop the Feeling!" from, uh, "Trolls."

Alas, "SoulMate" — a vaguely tropical entreaty to "let me pull you up to your body into mine" (weird phrasing!) — is not quite up to the job that Timberlake has set himself here.

It's melodic without being especially catchy, rhythmic but unlikely to get anyone moving. (Speaking of Drake, the song was produced by Nineteen85, who also did the rapper's sensuous "Hotline Bling" and "Hold On We're Going Home.")

Do those halfway charms mean that "SoulMate," released July 3 without warning, is better than anything on the leaden "Man of the Woods"?

Duh. But then so is a third-degree sunburn.

# Stripes

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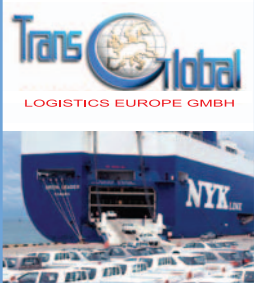
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# BUSINESS/WEATHER

# US-China trade war ups risks to global economy

By PAUL WISEMAN  
AND JOSH BOAK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The trade war that erupted Friday between the U.S. and China carries a major risk of escalation that could weaken investment, depress spending, unsettle financial markets and slow the global economy.

The opening shots were fired just after midnight, when the Trump administration imposed a 25 percent tariff on \$34 billion in imports from China, and Beijing promptly retaliated with duties on an equal amount of American products. It accused the U.S. of igniting "the biggest trade war in economic history."

Because of this first round of hostilities, American businesses and, ultimately, consumers could end up paying more for such Chinese-made products as construction equipment and other machinery. And American suppliers of soybeans, pork and whiskey could lose their competitive edge in China.

These initial tariffs are unlikely to inflict serious harm to the world's two biggest economies. Gregory Daco, head of U.S. economics at Oxford Economics, has calculated that they would pare growth in both countries by no more than 0.2 percent through 2020.

But the conflict soon could escalate. President Donald Trump, who has boasted that winning a trade war is easy, has said he is prepared to impose tariffs on up to \$550 billion in Chinese imports — a figure that exceeds the \$506 billion in goods that China shipped to the U.S. last year.

Escalating tariffs are likely to slow business investment as companies wait to see whether the administration can reach a truce

with Beijing. Some employers will probably put hiring on hold until the picture becomes clearer. The damage could risk undoing some of the economic benefits of last year's tax cuts.

"Trade disruption is the greatest threat to global growth," said Dec Mullarkey, managing director of investment strategies at Sun Life Investment Management. "The direct effects will be amplified as business confidence drops and investment decisions are delayed. Markets are still hoping that the key players return to the negotiation table."

The root of the conflict is the Trump administration's assertion that China has long used predatory tactics in a drive to supplant America's technological supremacy. Those tactics include cyber-theft as well as forcing companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to China's market. Trump's tariffs are meant to press Beijing to change its ways.

The rift with China is the most consequential trade conflict the administration has provoked. But it's hardly the only one.

Trump also is sparring with the European Union over his threat to tax auto imports and with Canada and Mexico over his push to rewrite the North American trade pact. And he has subjected most of America's trading partners to tariffs on steel and aluminum.

Many caught in the initial line of fire — U.S. farmers absorbing tariffs on their exports to China, for instance — are fearful. The price of soybeans has plunged 13 percent during the past month on fears that Chinese tariffs will cut off American farmers from China, which buys about 60 percent of their soybean exports.

"For soybean producers like me, this is a direct financial hit,"

**Escalating tariffs are likely to slow business investment as companies wait to see whether the Trump administration can reach a truce with Beijing.**

said Brent Bible, a soy and corn producer in Romney, Ind. "These tariffs could mean the difference between a profit and a loss for an entire year's worth of work out in the field, and that's only in the near term."

Christine LoCascio, an executive at the Distilled Spirits Council, said she fears China's tariffs on U.S. whiskey will "put the brakes on an American success story" of rising exports of U.S. spirits.

Even before the first shots, the prospect of a trade war was worrying investors. The Dow Jones industrial average has shed hundreds of points since June 11. But the risks are now priced into the market, and the Dow actually rose nearly 100 points Friday to 24,456.48.

China's currency, the yuan, has dropped 3.5 percent against the dollar during the past month, giving Chinese companies a price edge over their U.S. competition.

The drop might reflect a deliberate devaluation by Beijing to signal its "displeasure over the state of trade negotiations," according to a report from the Institute of International Finance, a banking trade group.

The Trump administration sought to limit the impact of the tariffs on U.S. households by targeting Chinese industrial goods, not consumer products, for the

first round of tariffs.

But that step raises costs for U.S. companies that rely on Chinese-made machinery or components. And it could force them to pass those higher costs on to their business customers and, eventually, to consumers.

If you like Chick-fil-A sandwiches, for instance, you may feel the effects. Charlie Souhrada of the North American Food Equipment Manufacturers said the tariffs could raise the cost of a kind of pressure cooker Chick-fil-A uses.

The administration has placed "these import taxes squarely on the shoulders of manufacturers and, by extension, consumers," Souhrada said.

One way the tariffs will squeeze farmers, landscapers and construction firms is by raising the price of excavators and loaders made by Bobcat, which uses attachments imported from China. U.S. suppliers rarely make these attachments, so the company must import them.

Jason Mayberry, Bobcat's assistant general counsel, said in a filing submitted to the U.S. Trade Representative's office that the company would have to raise prices to offset the tariff. Bobcat's raw material costs also have risen because of the administration's steel and aluminum tariffs.

The Federal Reserve is picking up signs that the trade war is causing businesses to rethink investment plans. In the minutes from its June meeting, the Fed noted that some companies have delayed or reduced plans to buy or upgrade equipment.

And if Trump extends the tariffs to up to \$550 billion in Chinese imports, consumers won't be able to avoid getting caught in the crossfire: The taxes would hit products like televisions and

cellphones.

That's what happened to imported washing machines, which were hit by separate Trump tariffs in January. During the past year, their price has surged more than 8 percent.

American trade groups are urging the two countries to resume talks.

"Tariffs will bring retaliation and possibly more tariffs," said Jay Timmons, president of the National Association of Manufacturers. "No one wins in a trade war."

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 9)	\$1.2051
Dollar buys (July 9)	69.8298
British pound (July 9)	\$1.36
Japanese yen (July 9)	108.00
South Korean won (July 9)	1,091.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3802
British pound	\$1.3266/0.7538
Canada (Dollar)	1.3447
China (Yuan)	6.6102
Denmark (Krone)	6.3464
Egypt (Pound)	17.8891
Euro	\$1.1745/0.8515
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8484
Hungary (Forint)	274.73
Israel (Shekel)	3.6223
Japan (Yen)	110.45
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3024
Norway (Krone)	8.0302
Philippines (Peso)	53.33
Poland (Zloty)	3.71
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7502
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3573
South Korea (Won)	1,115.45
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9898
Thailand (Baht)	33.15
Turkey (Lira)	4.5772
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federally funds market rate	1.50
3-month bill	2.50
30-year bond	2.93

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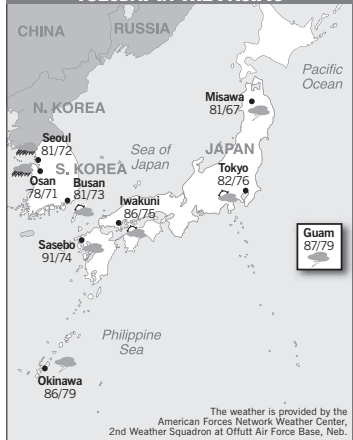
### MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### MONDAY IN EUROPE



### TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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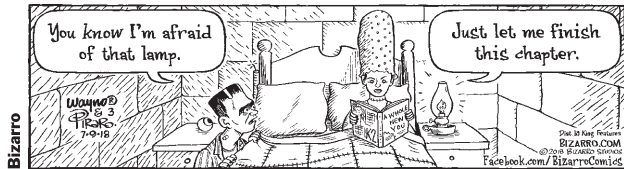
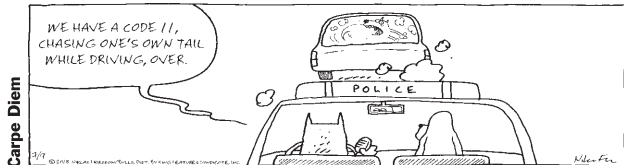
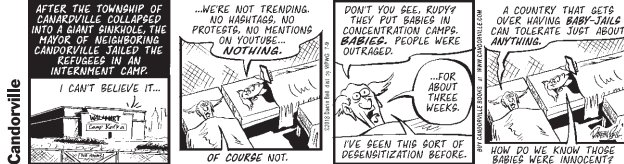
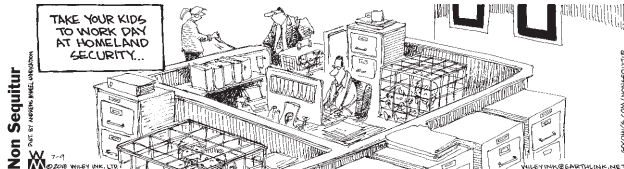
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## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11			12		13			14			
15					16			17			
18				19			21				
			22		23			24		25	26
28	29	30			31		32				
33				34	35		36				
37				38	39		40				
41				42		43					
			44		45		46		47	48	49
50	51	52		53		54		55			
56				57				58			
59				60					61		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pint-sized
  - 4 '60s chic
  - 7 Moving fleet
  - 11 Hawaiian city
  - 13 Gorilla
  - 14 Dayton's state
  - 15 Cookbook author
  - 16 Lobbyists' org.
  - 17 Like candles
  - 18 Piquant
  - 20 Crazy
  - 22 Explanation
  - 24 Rummaged (through)
  - 28 Showy flower
  - 32 Comment to the audience
  - 33 Rye buy
  - 34 Sailor
  - 36 "Got it"
  - 37 Delegate
  - 39 Region of northern Finland
  - 41 Of service
  - 43 Shade
  - 44 Dieter's target
  - 46 Grind your teeth
  - 50 South Pacific nation
  - 53 Light touch
  - 55 Manitoba tribe
  - 56 Sir Guinness
  - 57 Carrier to Amsterdam
  - 58 Big name in scat
  - 59 Head, to Henri
- DOWN**
- 60 Golf's Ernie
  - 61 Frequently
  - 27 Monopoly card
  - 28 — cheese dressing
  - 29 Billions of years
  - 30 Donated mail' co.
  - 35 "Humbug!"
  - 38 Actor Brynner
  - 40 Boxer
  - 42 Deli pancake
  - 45 Event for Cinderella
  - 47 Singer Guthrie
  - 48 Ego
  - 49 Warmth
  - 50 Obese
  - 51 — -de-France
  - 52 Lustrous black
  - 54 Evening hrs.

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	O	S	O	M	W	O	R	T
A	U	R	O	R	A	I	G	L
I	M	G	L	A	D	N	E	S
S	P	A	L	E	A	S	E	T
L	E	N	D	A	M	O	T	E
E	D	S	E	L	I	M	S	O
F	E	E						
I	M	R	E	A	D	S	C	A
D	O	E	R		I	O		A
E	N	V		S	T	O	N	E
A	K	I	N	T	O		I	M
L	E	S	S	E	R		T	I
Y	E	A	T	S		S	T	E

## CRYPTOQUIP

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YFCUXTK UF ZUB LKOCKC:

O VFFS-HXAJ UIZRDK.

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals W




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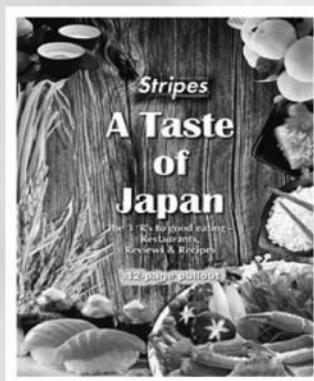
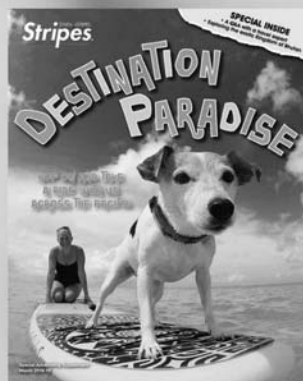
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## TENNIS/AUTO RACING

# Djokovic slams Wimbledon crowd after being booed

'They can't do whatever they feel like doing' says three-time champion

By MATTIAS KAREN  
Associated Press

LONDON — Novak Djokovic shrugged off a bad call by the chair umpire that cost him a break in his Wimbledon win over home favorite Kyle Edmund on Saturday.

He was less forgiving when it came to the way he was treated by the crowd at the All England Club.

"There is a certain unwritten borderline where you feel that it's a bit too much," Djokovic said about being booed at times by the partisan crowd on Centre Court. "I didn't deserve to be treated the way I was treated by certain individuals."

Neither the crowd nor a big mistake by the umpire could unglue Djokovic, though, as the three-time champion won 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to reach the round of 16 for the 11th time at the All England Club.

He was robbed of a break at 3-3, 15-40 in the fourth set when the ball bounced twice before Edmund managed to return it over the net. Djokovic complained to the chair umpire but the call stood — even though TV replays also showed Edmund's shot had actually landed wide.

Edmund ended up holding serve but Djokovic broke at his next opportunity to make sure there will be no British players in the second week of the tournament.

"I was 100 percent convinced it [bounced] twice," Djokovic said.

"Anybody can make a mistake. That's OK. But I don't understand why he [the umpire] didn't allow me to challenge the ball. I asked him. ... So, yes, it was quite a strange decision from [the] chair umpire, but it happens."

That wasn't the only point of contention in the match. Djokovic got into a bit of a two-sided argument with the crowd after he was booed following a time violation in the third set. He responded by blowing kisses into the stands.

"I thought the crowd's reaction after that [time violation] was quite unnecessary. A couple guys really, you know, pretending they were coughing and whistling while I was bouncing the ball more or less to the end of the match at that end where I received the time violation."

"Those are the things obviously that people don't get to see or hear on the TV. I just think it's not necessary. That's what I didn't like. ... My interaction with the crowd, I thought had good things and not great things. I just reacted the way I thought was fair, the way they reacted to me."

Edmund, the last British player



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

**Novak Djokovic celebrates winning a point during his men's singles match against Kyle Edmund at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on Saturday. Djokovic won 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.**

**'I didn't deserve to be treated the way I was treated by certain individuals.'**

**Novak Djokovic**  
12-time Grand Slam champion

remaining in the tournament, said he didn't notice anything disrespectful from the crowd, but acknowledged it was a Davis Cup-like atmosphere.

"It was a great atmosphere to be in," Edmund said. "When you're at Centre Court, to have the crowd behind you is a great thing."

He also insisted he was unsure whether the ball actually bounced twice on the disputed call in the fourth set.

"If in real life it's hard to tell, then it's hard to tell for me when I'm scrambling," he said. "We need the umpire to get off his chair and go to the TV monitor on the side."

It was the third time Djokovic faced a British player at Wimbledon, losing to Andy Murray in the 2013 final and beating James Ward in 2016. But this was the first time he got a reaction like this from the crowd.

"The crowd was very fair when I played against Andy. Obviously they support their player," he said. "But today there was just some people, especially behind that end where I got the time violation, they kept on going, they kept on going, provoking. That's something that I can tolerate for a little bit, but I'm going to show that I'm present as well, that they can't do whatever they feel like doing."



RON SANDER/AP

**Chase Elliott (9), Darrell Wallace Jr (43), Joey Logano (22) and Daniel Suarez (19) wreck during Saturday's NASCAR Cup Series race at Daytona International Speedway, in Daytona Beach, Fla.**

## Jones gets 1st win in chaotic Daytona race

By MARK LONG  
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Erik Jones survived several gnarly wrecks, defending Cup Series champion Martin Truex Jr. on his bumper late and the pressure of overtime at NASCAR's most famous track.

Maybe these so-called "Young Guns" do know how to find victory lane.

Jones won a crash-filled race at Daytona International Speedway, passing Truex on the final lap and then wildly celebrating the first victory of his Cup career. Jones created so much smoke during his burnout that he had trouble breathing afterward.

"How about that race boys and girls?" said Jones, who replaced 2004 series champion Matt Kenseth at Joe Gibbs Racing this year. "I thought we were out of it and all of a sudden we're right back in it. My first Cup win. My first win at Daytona. My first superspeedway win. What an awesome day."

It was huge for Jones, who clinched a spot in the playoffs. It may have been just as big for the up-and-coming generation of drivers who had gotten most of the promotion and none of the previous wins in 2018.

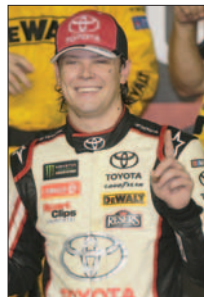
International Speedway Corp. President John Saunders pinned some of NASCAR's woes on the failure of the new crop of drivers, who have struggled to replace the sport's retired crop of stars.

Saunders said this week the sport needed the young guys to come along and "start to win and build their brands." Ryan Blaney and Darrell Wallace Jr. fired back at Saunders, saying the 20-somethings were trying their best to win.

Jones delivered the parting shot on the track.

Truex took a jab at the critics, saying "now maybe ISC and those guys can be happier about those things."

Jones was involved in one of the many wrecks, but his No. 20 Toyota was still in good enough shape to get by Truex late. Truex blamed himself for failing to see



TERRY RENNA/AP

**Erik Jones smiles after winning Saturday's race at Daytona International Speedway.**

Jones' run coming in his rearview mirror.

Truex finished second, followed by AJ Allmendinger, Kasey Kahne and Chris Buescher — another odd top 10 at Daytona. Ty Dillon was sixth, followed by Matt DiBenedetto, Ryan Newman and Daytona 500 champion Austin Dillon.

For Jones, a 22-year-old Michigan native driving in his first season for Joe Gibbs Racing, the breakthrough victory came in his 57th career start.

Last year's race winner, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., had the most memorable run of the night. He started two early accidents that wrecked more than half the field and was part of two more cautions late.

Stenhouse took Kurt Busch, Kyle Busch, Brad Keselowski and others. Jones was one of the lucky ones who avoided major damage. "I just think it's cool for Erik," said Truex, who had Jones as a teammate at Furniture Row Racing last year. "He's a good kid. He's worked hard. I don't know the repercussions of him winning here, what they're going to be. But I think for me, it's a good story. So happy for him, happy for his family and his fans."

## SPORTS BRIEFS/MMA

## Briefly

## Booker signs \$158M max deal with Suns

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Devin Booker, the high-scoring guard at the heart of Phoenix's rebuilding plans, has signed a five-year, \$158 million maximum contract with the Suns.

Booker, 21, tweeted a photo of himself smiling as he signed the contract Saturday night, moments before the Suns announced the deal, which makes him the highest-paid player in the franchise's history.

The 13th overall pick in the 2015 draft out of Kentucky, Booker has averaged 19.8 points per game in his three NBA seasons. He averaged 24.9 points last season, shooting 38 percent from three-point range. He won the NBA three-point contest at All-Star weekend in February.

Booker set a franchise record by scoring 70 points in a game at Boston on March 24, 2017, just the sixth player in NBA history to score that many.

"I am humbled & honored to commit to the Suns organization long term," he wrote. "I loved calling Phoenix home the last 3 seasons as this team & community are special to me. Thank you to the Suns for drafting

me and believing in me. I look forward to the future & pursuing a title as a Sun."

The announced signing came five days after Booker and his agent met with Suns owner Robert Sarver, general manager Ryan McDonough and vice president of basketball operations James Jones in Los Angeles to discuss the contract.

The contract takes effect in the 2019-20 season.

Booker topped 4,000 career points last March 2, becoming the third-youngest player to reach that milestone. Only LeBron James and Kevin Durant were younger.

But while Booker has amassed big individual statistics, there has been little team success. The Suns have missed the playoffs the last eight seasons and had the worst record in the NBA last season at 21-61.

In other NBA news:

■ Timofey Mozgov has been traded for the second time this summer, dealt from Charlotte to Orlando in a three-team deal that also included Chicago.

The Magic sent Bismack Biyombo and two future second-round picks to Char-

lotte, which traded Mozgov to Orlando. The Magic also got guard Jerian Grant from the Bulls in the deal.

## Sagan wins Tour stage

LA ROCHE-SUR-YON, France — World champion Peter Sagan won a sprint finish to claim the second stage of the Tour de France and the race's overall lead on Sunday, while Chris Froome had a calmer ride after his tumble in the first leg.

Sagan won the mostly flat 113.4-mile leg from Mouillereau-Saint-Germain to the department capital of La Roche-sur-Yon in just over four hours. The Slovakian rider for Bora-Hansgrohe edged Sonny Colbrelli at the finish line after a short uphill push.

Froome, who fell into a ditch near the end of Saturday's opening stage, arrived safely with most of the peloton, 1:07 behind Sagan's leading time.

## Kim ties LPGA 54-hole record

ONEIDA, Wis. — Sei Young Kim shot an 8-under-par 64 in the third round of Thorn-

berry Creek LPGA Classic on Saturday to tie the 54-hole record of 24 under and take a commanding eight-stroke lead.

Kim, who had a 63 on Thursday and a 65 on Friday, got rolling with an eagle on No. 3 and added six birdies. A birdie on No. 16 tied Annika Sorenstam's 24 under at the Mizuno Classic in Japan in 2003. After Kim missed a long birdie putt on the par-3 17th, she hit her tee shot on the 390-yard 18th into the left rough.

## Vettel pads F1 lead with win

SILVERSTONE, England — Sebastian Vettel took advantage of a bad start and disastrous first lap for Lewis Hamilton to win the British Grand Prix and extend his lead in the championship standings on Sunday.

Hamilton started in pole position but Vettel streaked ahead and his Ferrari teammate Kimi Raikkonen compounded Hamilton's misfortune when he bumped into him, sending the Brit off the track.

Hamilton managed to fight his way back to finish second.

## Twice: Cormier will next face former champ Lesnar in his UFC return

## FROM BACK PAGE

Cormier's 5-inch height disadvantage and 8-inch reach disadvantage against Miocic proved to be no problems — and he actually weighed a few pounds more than Miocic at weigh-ins on Friday.

"In our studying, we knew Stipe would back out of the clinch a little bit with his hands low, so I worked on that," Cormier said. "I spent all camp knocking out my training partners, and today I got to do it in the octagon."

Cormier's move up to challenge Miocic was only the third superfight in UFC history between reigning champions of two weight classes. Welterweight champ Georges St. Pierre defended his belt in 2009 by battering lightweight champ BJ Penn, and McGregor accomplished his feat less than two years ago in his most recent MMA fight.

UFC President Dana White said the result confirms Cormier is "one of the best of all time ... It finally gives him the respect that he deserves. It couldn't happen to a better guy. I said to him, 'If you're the champion for the rest of my career, I'll be a happy man.'"

After beating Miocic, Cormier engaged in a bit of clearly planned theatrics with Brock Lesnar, the professional wrestler and former UFC heavyweight champion. Cormier called Lesnar into the cage, and Lesnar shoved Cormier in the chest while the fighters talked. It all seems to hype a potential future bout.

"Push me now, (and) you're going to sleep later," Cormier yelled at Lesnar. "Your days are in the past. In the stone age."

Lesnar, likely the biggest pay-per-view draw in UFC history, is widely expected to return to MMA early next year. White confirmed he'll book Cormier



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Daniel Cormier, right, fights Stipe Miocic during a heavyweight title mixed martial arts bout at UFC 226 on Saturday in Las Vegas.

against Lesnar as soon as Lesnar has completed the requisite drug testing, but Cormier said he would like to defend his 205-pound title later this year before fighting Lesnar.

Cormier was a heavyweight amateur wrestler before his late-starting MMA career. He won the Strikeforce heavyweight title before leaving the division when he joined the UFC because he didn't want to fight Cain Velasquez, his training partner and the former UFC heavyweight champ.

Earlier at UFC 226, heavyweight Derrick Lewis earned a lifeless decision over former featherweight prospect Francis Ngannou in the co-main event at the UFC's biggest show of the summer. Welterweight Mike Perry also earned a copiously bloody split-decision victory over Paul Felder.

But Cormier provided all the fireworks necessary with his demolition of Miocic, who had held the heavyweight belt for over two

years. Miocic was the UFC's most dominant heavyweight champion in the history of the UFC's most tumultuous division, defending his belt a UFC-record three times.

The Cleveland firefighter hadn't lost since December 2014 and hadn't been stopped since September 2012.

The show capped the UFC's annual International Fight Week in early July in its hometown. For the fourth consecutive year, the weekend's pay-per-view card lost a major fight when featherweight champion Max Holloway was ruled out of his title defense with Brian Ortega due to symptoms of an apparent concussion.

Lewis (20-5) earned an easy decision victory practically by default when Ngannou (11-3) seemed uninterested in engaging amid heavy boos. Ngannou, who landed a paltry 11 strikes over three rounds, was thought to be the UFC's next heavyweight force before Miocic dominated

him in January.

The sometimes outrageous Perry (12-3) ended a two-fight skid with a disciplined, punishing performance against Felder (15-4), who hung in despite seriously injuring his right forearm and getting a frightening cut near his left eye. Both fighters were covered in Felder's blood by the final bell.

Former lightweight champion Anthony Pettis also submitted Michael Chiesa in the second round with a triangle armbar

from a bottom position. Pettis (21-7) won for just the third time in eight fights since 2014.

Earlier, unbeaten Brazilian middleweight Paulo Costa stopped Uriah Hall in the second round of a jaw-dropping slugfest between two of the sport's hardest punchers.

Light heavyweight Khalil Rountree kicked off the PPV card with a surprising first-round stoppage of Gokhan Saki, a heralded Dutch kickboxer in his third pro MMA fight.

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Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB					
Boston	61	29	.678	—	Milwaukee	53	36	.596	11½	Red Sox	41	15	.731	—	Los Angeles	40	16	.706	—	San Diego	38	18	.682	12½
New York	59	33	.643	.5	Chicago	46	34	.573	16½	Philadelphia	40	20	.667	—	St. Louis	40	20	.667	—	San Francisco	38	20	.654	12½
Tampa Bay	44	50	.466	16	Atlanta	40	38	.513	19	Washington	40	20	.667	—	Minnesota	39	33	.543	20½	Arizona	38	24	.611	14
Toronto	41	47	.466	19	Pittsburgh	39	33	.543	20½	Los Angeles	40	20	.667	—	Seattle	39	33	.543	20½	Los Angeles	38	24	.611	14
Baltimore	24	73	.243	36	Los Angeles	48	24	.667	—	San Francisco	38	20	.654	12½	San Diego	38	20	.654	12½	San Diego	38	20	.654	12½
Central Division					West Division					Boston					Los Angeles									
Cleveland	38	48	.440	10½	Arizona	48	24	.667	—	San Francisco	38	20	.654	12½	San Diego	38	20	.654	12½	San Diego	38	20	.654	12½
Minnesota	38	48	.440	10½	Los Angeles	48	24	.667	—	San Francisco	38	20	.654	12½	San Diego	38	20	.654	12½	San Diego	38	20	.654	12½
Chicago	30	59	.338	20	Los Angeles	48	24	.667	—	San Francisco	38	20	.654	12½	San Diego	38	20	.654	12½	San Diego	38	20	.654	12½
Kansas City	30	59	.338	20	Los Angeles	48	24	.667	—	San Francisco	38	20	.654	12½	San Diego	38	20	.654	12½	San Diego	38	20	.654	12½
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## MLB

# Arizona scores 20 runs in win over Padres

## D-backs set single-game franchise record with rout

By BOB BAUM  
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Five home runs, 18 hits, 20 runs.

The Arizona Diamondbacks have never had a better offensive night than they did Saturday against the San Diego Padres.

David Peralta drove in three runs and matched his career best with five hits and the Diamondbacks set a single-game franchise scoring record with a 20-5 rout of the Padres.

"It wasn't just a good night for me," Peralta said. "It was a good night for everybody."

Wil Myers became the third Padres player to homer three times in a game, but San Diego was blown out in its 16th loss in 21 games.

"This day was painful, there is no doubt about it," Padres manager Andy Green said. "This day was painful for fans, painful for players, for us. But you have to look at it like tomorrow you have a chance to split the series against a first-place club. It is one loss. It is a painful one. We will remember it, but we will also move on."

Paul Goldschmidt, Steven Souza Jr., Alex Avila, Nick Ahmed and Ketel Marte homered for the Diamondbacks in breaking the team scoring record set in an 18-7 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on May 17, 2014.

Goldschmidt, Ahmed and Avila also each had three RBIs.

"I don't even know where to start, to tell you the truth," Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said. "You set a franchise record for runs scored in a game, you know that you've done something pretty special."

The romp kept the Diamondbacks a game ahead of the second-place Dodgers in the NL West.

Arizona jumped on Tyson Ross for eight runs in the first two innings and was up 15-



RICK SCUTEN/AP

The Diamondbacks' John Jay, right, beats the tag by San Diego Padres shortstop Freddy Galvis after hitting a double during the first inning of Saturday's game in Phoenix. Arizona won 20-5.

4 after four, scoring at least three runs in four consecutive innings for the first time in franchise history.

Ross (5-7) lasted just two innings, giving up eight runs and seven hits.

"Days like today happen," he said. "It was a rough one for me out there."

Ross has allowed 15 runs in seven innings in his last two outings.

Goldschmidt's three-run shot off relief-

er Kazuhisa Makita was the slugger's 20th homer of the season, the sixth time in his career he has homered 20 times in a season. Souza's homer off Ross was his first of the season. Avila, just off the disabled list, had two RBIs singles to go with his fourth homer of the season.

Despite the huge early lead, Robbie Ray did not last long enough to get the victory. In his third start since coming off the dis-

abled list, Ray allowed four runs, including three homers, and four hits, walking four in 4½ innings. He left after throwing 97 pitches.

Said it was "very frustrating" to not get through the fifth inning despite such a big lead.

Lovullo said he pulled Ray because of the high pitch count, even though it deprived the left-hander of a victory.

## Roundup

# Reynolds drives in career-best 10, Nationals win again

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mark Reynolds homered twice and drove in a career-high 10 runs, Max Scherzer won for the first time since June 5, and the Washington Nationals beat the Miami Marlins 18-4 on Saturday night.

Washington has won three straight and scored a combined 35 runs since calling a players-only meeting on Wednesday after falling under .500 for the first time since May 2.

Reynolds (5-for-5) tied his career high for hits and equaled the Nationals' RBI record.

Scherzer (11-5), who was 0-4 in his previous five starts, pitched seven innings, allowing four runs on four hits — three of which were home runs. The Nationals had been shut out in three of Scherzer's previous five starts.

**Dodgers 3, Angels 1:** At Anaheim, Calif., Ross Spriest pitched another gem and Justin Turner drove in two runs to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers to a win over the Angels.



SUSAN WALSH/AP

The Nationals' Mark Reynolds gets a base hit against the Miami Marlins during the seventh inning of Saturday's game in Washington.

**Red Sox 15, Royals 4:** Andrew Benintendi homered, doubled, walked a career-high four times and scored four runs, and Boston routed host Kansas City.

Mookie Betts had four hits, raising his American League-leading average to .343. Ten Red Sox players had RBIs as they scored a season high in runs.

**Twins 5, Orioles 4:** Kyle Gibson recovered from a rough start to throw seven innings, and Max Kepler homered in his second straight game to lead Minnesota past visiting Baltimore.

**Cubs 8, Reds 7:** Javier Baez homered and had four hits — including a game-tying infield single in the eighth — and host Chicago rallied from a five-run deficit.

**Phillies 3, Pirates 2:** At Pittsburgh, Nick Williams, Scott Kingery and Jorge Alfaro drove in runs on consecutive at-bats in the seventh inning to help first-place Philadelphia win its sixth straight.

**Cardinals 3, Giants 2:** Carlos Martinez pitched seven effective innings for his third consecutive win and St. Louis beat host San Francisco.

**Braves 5, Brewers 1:** Anibal Sanchez pitched effectively into the seventh and Freddie Freeman added three hits, lifting visiting Atlanta over Milwaukee.

**Tigers 7, Rangers 2:** Nicholas Castellanos homered as part of

a seven-run first inning for host Detroit, and the Tigers cruised past Texas.

**Yankees 8, Blue Jays 5:** Luis Severino pitched five innings to earn his major league-leading 14th win, Brett Gardner and Aaron Judge each hit solo home runs, and visiting New York beat Toronto.

**Rays 3, Mets 0:** Blake Snell blanked the Mets over a career-high-tying 7½ innings. Wilson Ramos drove in a pair of runs and Tampa Bay downed host New York.

**Rockies 5, Mariners 1:** Noel Cuevas hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning among his three hits to lead visiting Colorado to a win against Seattle.

**Astros 12, White Sox 6:** Yuli Gurriel and Alex Bregman each homered and Charlie Morton won his 11th as host Houston beat Chicago for its fifth straight win.

**Athletics 6, Indians 3 (11):** Stephen Piscotty hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the 11th inning to lead Oakland past host Cleveland.

## WORLD CUP

# Good Kompany

## Key Belgium defender is healthy again for semifinal

By MIKE CORDER  
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — When Vincent Kompany walked off the pitch without waiting to be substituted during a pre-World Cup friendly against Portugal, Belgian football fans feared the worst.

Would the rock on which the Belgium team's defense is built miss another tournament two years after a groin injury sidelined him for the European Championship?

Not to worry. Kompany knows a thing or two about overcoming adversity in a stellar career that has been disrupted by multiple injuries.

"The fact that I'm standing here today, despite having had so many injuries, makes me stronger," the 32-year-old defender said before Belgium beat Brazil 2-1 to secure a World Cup semifinal berth for the first time in 32 years.

So strong in fact that he set up Belgium's first goal against Brazil. His header from a corner hit Manchester City teammate Fernandinho and deflected into the net for an own goal.

Now Kompany is getting ready to face France at St. Petersburg on Tuesday in a matchup of two title favorites. England plays Croatia in Moscow the following day in the other semifinal.

Belgium coach Roberto Martinez had plenty of reasons for including Kompany in his 23-man squad for Russia despite the injury cloud hanging over him since the June 2 friendly against Portugal.

"There's the experience ... there's a little bit the knowhow, there's the communication on the pitch," Martinez explained to those who were sweating on Kompany's fitness. "I think that understanding — knowing what's expected in big games and big moments is important so you don't want to lose any of those players."

Martinez also knew that Belgium's draw in Russia meant he could afford to leave Kompany on the bench early in the World Cup — the Manchester City captain was barely missed as Belgium raced to a 3-0 victory over Panama and beat Tunisia 5-2.

Kompany's tournament finally got underway as a 74th-minute substitute against England. It was a gentle re-introduction in a workout between two

teams already qualified for the knockout stage. Both teams were aware that a defeat could actually be a good result for the remainder of the tournament because it would potentially put them on an easier path to the final.

He appeared a little rusty in the thrilling 3-2 comeback win against Japan in the round of 16, but was his normal composed self against Brazil, leading by example at the back as Belgium battled Neymar and company to cling to its lead in the second half.

Kompany was perhaps lucky to get away without conceding a penalty for a challenge on Gabriel Jesus, but also showed his composure when calmly controlling a ball on his chest and clearing it after goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois saved a shot by Douglas Costa and the ball bounced back into the crowded penalty area.

He has led by example since his earliest days playing in the Belgian capital, Brussels, where he was born to a Congolese father and Belgian mother. Teammates in youth teams would be scared to go to the locker room after losing, fearing a scolding from Kompany.

That desire led him to Anderlecht and soon earned him a move to Bundesliga club Hamburg. After two seasons in Germany, Mark Hughes signed him for Manchester City in 2008. Kompany is club captain and has won the Premier League three times.

The list of injuries he has sustained makes for painful reading: toe, Achilles tendon, calf muscle, knee, hamstring, thigh and groin. He has missed more than 100 club matches over the years as well as Euro 2016, where Belgium's talented team only managed to reach the quarterfinals.

Now two victories stand between him and what would be Belgium's first World Cup title. The country's best result was reaching the semifinals in 1986, where it lost to 2-0 to eventual winner Argentina.

Kompany will lead the Belgium defense against France's speedy attack thanks to his steely resolve.

"You have to be mentally strong and have an inner strength to get back to this level every time," he said. "So today I'm here, but it's the result of so many months and so many hours in the gym."



HASSAN AMMAR/AP

Belgium first assistant coach Thierry Henry gives instructions during training on Thursday. Henry, who is France's leading goal scorer with 51, will face his former team when Belgium plays Les Bleus in the semifinals on Tuesday.

## Belgium assistant motivates France

By JOHN LEICESTER  
Associated Press

MOSCOW — If only France's young players had an outstanding ex-pro they could turn to for advice about how to beat Belgium in the World Cup semifinals, someone who won the World Cup himself in 1998 and who scored more goals than anyone in his stellar career with Les Bleus.

Oh.

Not only is Thierry Henry already taken but the team that hired France's record scorer as an assistant coach is, yes, you guessed it ... Belgium.

France striker Olivier Giroud is turning Henry's presence on the opposing side into an extra source of motivation for Tuesday's semifinal, which is France's first since 2006 and only the second ever for Belgium.

"I would be proud to show Titi that he chose the wrong camp," Giroud said Sunday, referring to Henry by his nickname. "It is true that it is strange to have him against us for this match. I think it will be a peculiar match for him. As long as we win, that's fine with me."

Henry was part of the 1998 team that won the World Cup on home turf, scoring three goals in his first major tournament and converting a penalty in a nerve-rattling shootout against Italy in the quarterfinals. Henry did not play in the 3-0 final victory for Les Bleus over Brazil.

Belgium coach Roberto Martinez brought Henry into the Belgium setup two years ago to impart not just his knowledge of goal scoring — he is France's all-time top scorer with 51 goals in 123 appearances, and Arsenal's with 228 — but also his experience of winning with a team weighed down by great expectations.

Giroud said Henry could coach France in the future and that working with Belgium will help the 40-year-old gain experience in his new career as a coach.

"He is lucky to be with a team with a fine generation of players. He is there to learn," Giroud said. "I would have preferred that he was with us and that he was giving his advice to me or to the other attackers. But we mustn't be jealous or anything about that. It doesn't shock me at all."

Previously, as a TV pundit, Henry suggested Giroud wasn't good enough, saying in 2015 that Arsenal couldn't win the Premier League with him in attack and needed "a top, top-quality striker."

Giroud, now with Chelsea, says he bears no hard feelings.

For TV work, Henry "needed to be a bit incisive," he said. "I am not at all bitter about that."

"It's been a few years now that he said certain things in the media before going back on his words or at least changing them," Giroud said. "There is a lot of respect between us."



PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

Belgium's Vincent Kompany, left, jumps for the ball in front of Japan goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima during a second-round game last week. Fans feared an injury would keep Kompany out of the World Cup.

### Live on AFN

Semifinals  
Belgium vs. France  
AFN-Sports2  
8 p.m. Tuesday CET  
3 a.m. Wednesday JKT

Semifinals  
Croatia vs. England  
AFN-Sports2  
8 p.m. Wednesday CET  
3 a.m. Thursday JKT

## WORLD CUP

## Croatia ends Russia's run in PK shootout

BY TALES AZZONI  
Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Nyet this time.

Although Russia made it further at this year's World Cup than most anyone expected, it was Croatia that advanced to the semifinals following a 4-3 shootout victory Saturday following a 2-2 draw.

The overachieving hosts, the lowest ranked team in the tournament at No. 70, were trying to make it to the World Cup semifinals for the first time since the Soviet Union finished fourth at the 1966 tournament in England. Even Russian President Vladimir Putin was taken in by the host nation's surprising run, at least according to Russia coach Stanislav Cherchesov.

"Putin called me during the day, and he called me right now," Cherchesov said. "He congratulated us on a very good game. He said what we showed on the field was great. I told him we were disappointed. He said we should have our eyes open and make the next steps."

The Croats hadn't advanced to the semifinals at the World Cup since 1998, when the country made its first appearance. Croatia will play England in the semifinals on Wednesday in Moscow.

With the crowd silenced following an extra-time header from Croatia defender Domagoj Vida in the 101st minute, Russia defender Mario Fernandes scored with his own header in the 115th



MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

**Croatia players celebrate after a penalty is saved in a shootout in the quarterfinal match against Russia in Sochi, Russia on Saturday. Croatia won the match 4-3 on penalties after the game ended 2-2.**

to send the match to yet another penalty shootout.

Fernandes, who was born in Brazil but rejected a chance to play for that country's national team in 2011, sent his penalty kick wide of the net in the shootout, giving Croatia the advantage.

Both goalkeepers made early saves in the shootout, with an injured Danijel Subasic stopping the opening shot from Fyodor Smolov. Igor Akinfeev later blocked an attempt from Mateo Kovacic.

At 1-1, Fernandes missed his

shot — only the second player to miss in any of the four shootouts at this year's World Cup.

The teams then traded two scores each before Ivan Rakitic calmly converted the winner.

"We should have finished the job before penalties but maybe it's written in the stars we have to go through the extra drama," said Luka Modric, whose penalty bounced off Akinfeev's hand and the post before entering the other side of the net.

Denis Cheryshev gave Russia the lead in regulation time with

a long-range shot into the upper corner in the 31st minute. Croatia equalized with Andrej Kramaric's header near halftime.

"I left everything on the field and unfortunately we were unlucky," Russia midfielder Roman Zobnin said. "We gave everything we could."

It was the second straight time both teams played in a penalty shootout. Russia beat Spain 4-3 and Croatia defeated Denmark 3-2 in the round of 16.

Argentina in 1990 had been the last team to win consecutive

World Cup shootouts. The defending champions at the time defeated Yugoslavia in the quarterfinals and Italy in the semifinals that year, which also made Italy the last host nation to lose on penalties before Saturday.

The victory overwhelmed Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic, who cried after Rakitic's winning penalty.

"It wasn't a beautiful game, but it was a battle," Dalic said. "We were lucky. I was concentrating throughout the match, but after that penalty it came bursting out of me."

## Moot midfield

Modric and Rakitic were decisive in the shootout but didn't play up to expectations in regulation and extra time, unable to create many significant chances for Ivan Perisic and Mario Mandzukic up front.

Both players were beaten by Cheryshev in the play that led to the opening goal for the Russians.

## Cheryshev again

Cheryshev was Russia's leading scorer at the World Cup with four goals. He converted the final penalty for Russia in the shootout against Spain, as well as the winner against Egypt and a pair of goals in the opener against Saudi Arabia in the group stage.

Many fans gave him a standing ovation when he was taken off in the second half.

## Subasic plays through injury, comes up big again

BY TIM BOOTH  
Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Croatia goalkeeper Danijel Subasic was the star against Denmark for the three saves he made in the penalty shootout that put the team into the World Cup quarterfinals.

What he did against Russia may be viewed back home as a greater accomplishment.

Subasic appeared to pick up a significant leg injury in the final moments of the second half on Saturday. He grabbed the back of his leg near his hamstring and it appeared he may need a substitute.

But a replacement never arrived. Subasic was able to play through extra time and again made a key save in the penalty shootout as Croatia won 4-3 and advanced to the semifinals for the second time in its history.

Subasic saved the first attempt of the shootout when he made an adjustment while diving to get a hand on Fyodor Smolov's attempt. It set the tone as Croatia became the first team since Argentina in 1990 to win consecutive World Cup games on penalties.

And it earned the exhausted group a date with England in the semifinals.

"I think we are underdogs from Day 1 and it's good for us," Croatia



REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

**Croatia's Danijel Subasic makes a save on the penalty shot from Russia's Fyodor Smolov during the quarterfinal match on Saturday.**

defender Dejan Lovren said. "When you've got all these other teams, France, Belgium, England, that's the top teams from the beginning and we are the underdogs. Maybe we can change something."

Subasic didn't need to win the shootout the same way he did against Denmark, when his three saves were the reason the Croatia

team advanced. After saving the first, Subasic was aided when Mario Fernandes missed the net with the third attempt. Croatia's shooters did enough that Ivan Rakitic's successful penalty was the winner and set off another wild celebration with Subasic on the bottom of the pile.

Subasic's four shootout saves are tied with Harald Schumacher

of West Germany and Sergio Goycochea of Argentina for the most in a single World Cup.

"He could go on and that was the most important thing," Croatia captain Luka Modric said. "I'm not sure how it affected him. But he saved fantastically the first shot in the shootout. I asked him and he said he was OK, it did not affect him much. Thank God everything is fine with him."

For a while it didn't look like Subasic would be around for a shootout. He went down injured late in the second half after appearing to injure his hamstring while trying to keep a deflected ball from going over the line for a corner kick. Croatia began warming up its backup goalkeepers in case Subasic was unable to continue into extra time. Even before extra time arrived, Subasic had to block a shot from Smolov from a tight angle late in second-half stoppage time.

In extra time, Subasic blocked and smothered Daler Kuzyaev's attempt, which appeared to be a game-saver until Fernandes came unmarked on a free kick and his header to the far post couldn't be stopped in the 115th minute.

Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic said Subasic's uncertain health affected how he wanted to manage his substitutes going into extra

time. His hand was forced when Sime Vrsaljko went down with a knee injury early in extra time and Dalic was forced to use his final substitution to replace the defender. At that point, Subasic had to go the rest of the way for the Croatsians.

"They've shown character once again," Dalic said. "And he who does, wins."

## Scoreboard

### Quarterfinals

**Friday, July 6**  
At Nizhny Novgorod, Russia  
France 2, Uruguay 0  
At Kazan, Russia  
Belgium 2, Brazil 1  
**Saturday, July 7**  
At Samara, Russia  
England 2, Sweden 0  
At Sochi, Russia  
Croatia 2, Russia 2, Croatia wins 4-3 on penalty kicks

### Semifinals

**Tuesday, July 10**  
At St. Petersburg, Russia  
France vs. Belgium  
**Wednesday, July 11**  
At Moscow  
England vs. Croatia  
**THIRD PLACE**  
**Saturday, July 14**  
At St. Petersburg, Russia  
Semifinal losers

### Championship

**Sunday, July 15**  
At Moscow  
Semifinal winners



## SPORTS



## Record rout

D-backs pound Padres 20-5 to set franchise mark » **MLB, Page 29**

MMA

# Twice as nice

Cormier knocks out heavyweight champ Miocic in first round to win second UFC title belt



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Daniel Cormier celebrates after defeating Stipe Miocic by knockout in a heavyweight title mixed martial arts bout at UFC 226 on Saturday in Las Vegas.

BY GREG BEACHAM  
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS

**D**aniel Cormier knocked out the UFC heavyweight champion, argued with a professional wrestler and left the octagon dancing with glee and perfect balance, thanks to one championship belt on each arm.

There will never be another Saturday night like it for the 39-year-old former amateur wrestler who stands on the pinnacle of the UFC.

Make that two pinnacles.

Cormier added the heavyweight championship to his light heavyweight title when he stopped Stipe Miocic in dramatic fashion during the first round of their superfight at UFC 226.

Late in a lively opening round, Cormier (21-1, 1 no-contest) abruptly flattened the UFC's long-reigning heavyweight kingpin with a right elbow out of a clinch. He finished Miocic (18-3) on the ground with 27 seconds left in the round, landing several shots to the defenseless champion's head.

Cormier became the second fighter in UFC history to hold two championship

belts simultaneously. Conor McGregor was the UFC's featherweight champ in 2016 when he took the lightweight title from Eddie Alvarez.

"I was a heavyweight for a long time, and I left the division," Cormier said. "I never knew what I could become, but tonight I got the answer: I'm a two-division champion, baby!"

Cormier, a former Strikeforce heavyweight champion who moved down in weight to avoid fighting a good friend, has never lost to anyone except Jon Jones, the star-crossed former light heavyweight

champion who beat him twice. The second victory last summer was changed to a no-contest when Jones failed a doping test, and he remains out of the sport.

Cormier is on top of it with less than a year to go until reaching his self-imposed retirement age of 40.

"I'm 39 years old, and I've been second many times," Cormier said. "But today, I have accomplished everything I ever wanted. From crying in this octagon almost a year ago, to leaving as the heavyweight champion."

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